

Contact: Pat Shipe
Akron Education Association
330.434.2181
Fax 330.434.6826

681 North Main Street
Akron, Ohio 44310

**Akron Education
Association**

Press Release

Akron Education Association Works to Return Students Safely to In-Person Education

Akron, OH, February 13, 2021: Patricia Shipe, President of the Akron Education Association (AEA) representing almost 2400 members, has released the following statement.

“It is unfortunate that Governor DeWine chose a late Friday news conference to rebuke several Ohio school districts with what we believe to be, in some cases, incorrect information. Even though Akron schools did not receive their vaccination doses by the Governor’s commitment date of 2/1, our educators and staff continued to work tirelessly to deliver rigorous instruction to all APS children. In addition, as agreed when Akron signed its commitment letter which the Governor referred to during his news conference, APS implemented their hybrid in-person Remote Plus model on February 1, a full month before the requirement and prior to any staff being vaccinated.

The Akron Education Association and Akron Public School Board have worked continuously since March 2020 in an exceptional show of labor and management collaboration to develop multiple models of rigorous instructional delivery which ensured the highest level of education is being delivered to each of our students directly by Akron educators five days a week.

We are disappointed with Governor DeWine’s acrimony and his utilization of a life-saving vaccine as a tool of divisiveness. It is disappointing that rather than support our dedicated teachers and staff and be a part of the solution to the many challenges our schools are facing, the governor has chosen to pit Ohioan against Ohioan and play politics with the lives of our educators, children, and families.

It is time to stop disparaging Ohio’s educators but, rather, recognize the unrelenting dedication, allegiance and care teachers display towards Ohio’s children every day. I, for one, am beyond honored to represent Akron’s educators and will continue to advocate for them, our children, families, and communities.”

For Immediate Release