

STUDENT USE OF FACE MASKS DURING PANDEMIC**General Statement**

The District's highest priority is the health and safety of employees and students. The Board of Education has adopted a Safety Plan for the 2021-2022 school year. Pursuant to that Plan, the Administration will identify timeframes during which all students must wear face masks in and around school buildings and school buses / vehicles.

Factors to be used in making this determination include but are not limited to:

- CDC, IDPH, ISBE and State Governor mandates and recommendations
- Local vaccination rates
- Local Infection transmission rates

Additional mitigation measures including but not limited to:

- Physical distancing
- Screening
- Testing
- Ventilation
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- Staying home when sick and getting tested
- Contact tracing, in combination with isolation and quarantine
- Cleaning and disinfection

Based on the Plan and these factors, when required by the Safety Plan or a mandate, students must wear an appropriate face mask over their nose and mouth at all times while in district school buildings and on school buses.

Face masks are not required on school property outside of the buildings. Additionally, face masks may be removed for limited periods of time as necessary for a student to eat/drink.

The face mask worn by students must comply with District Policy 7:160 and rules on student dress contained in the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook.

In general, all students in a school building must wear a face mask unless they:

- have a medical contraindication,
- have trouble breathing, or
- are unconscious, incapacitated, or unable to remove the face mask without assistance.

Clear face shields are not an appropriate substitution for masks. Students who have a medical contraindication to using a face mask may request an accommodation, such as wearing a face shield, as explained in the Exemption and Accommodation Request section, below.

The requirement for students to wear face masks in school may shift throughout the school year. The Superintendent or Designee shall inform all students, parents and staff of any changes to the requirement to use face masks during the 2021-2022 school year.

Exemption or Accommodation Request

The decision to grant an exemption or accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis. Students whose request for an exemption or accommodation has been denied must wear a face mask in accordance with this policy.

A. General Education Students

The parent / guardian of a general education student who cannot wear a face mask due to one of the reasons listed above must make a written request for an exemption or accommodation to the face mask requirement using the Face Mask Exemption Form available online.

B. Special Education and Section 504 Students

The parent / guardian of a student with an IEP or a Section 504 plan who cannot wear a face mask due to one of the reasons listed above, a respiratory condition, sensory processing sensitivity, the oral expulsion of bodily fluids, or other basis must apply for an exemption or accommodation to the face mask requirement.

Written request for exemption or accommodation should be made by the parent / guardian using the Face Mask Exemption Form which can be found online at www.sd308.org.

Enforcement

Students who refuse to wear a face mask properly, covering the nose and mouth, are subject to discipline, that may include detention, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, and expulsion during the pendency of the directive to wear face masks while at school.

Adopted: August 12, 2021
Reviewed: January 10, 2022
Approved: January 24, 2022