

Book	BOARD POLICIES
Section	800 Operations
Title	Mask Policy
Code	831
Status	Active
Legal	1. 24 P.S.1317.3 2. 22 PA Code 12.11 3. Policy 220 4. Policy 221
Adopted	February 17, 2021

Purpose

To comply with the Pennsylvania Department of Health Order of July 1, 2020 requiring face covering and consistent to the District's Health and Safety Plan submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education. This policy shall enforce face covering requirements so long as the Order and Health and Safety Plan are being implemented and as may be subsequently modified by the Department of Health or Board of School Directors. [1][2]

Definitions

Face covering means a covering of the nose and mouth that is secured to the head with ties, straps, or loops over the ears or is wrapped around the lower face. A face covering can be made of a variety of synthetic or natural fabrics, including cotton, silk, or linen. For purposes of this policy, a face covering does not include a plastic face shield that covers the nose and mouth. Face coverings may be factory-made, sewn by hand, or a two-ply gaiter. While procedural and surgical masks intended for healthcare providers and first responders meet these requirements, such as N95 respirators, these specialized masks should be reserved for appropriate occupational and health care settings.

Authority

All faculty, staff, students and all visitors shall comply with the Pennsylvania Department of Health Order of July 1, 2020 requiring universal face covering. Subject to the exceptions below, all faculty, staff, students and visitors are required to wear a face covering. A face covering will not be required if they are:

1. Individuals who cannot wear a face covering due to a medical condition, including those with respiratory issues that impede breathing, mental health condition, or disability;
2. Individuals for whom wearing a face covering while engaging in educational activity would create an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task as determined by an instructor, local, state or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines;
3. Individuals who would be unable to remove a face covering without assistance;
4. Individuals who are under two years of age;

5. Individuals who are communicating or seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing-impaired or has another disability, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication. In this case, a face shield would be acceptable.

Faculty, staff, students, or visitors who claim or request an exemption to the requirement to wear a face covering due to a medical condition or mental health condition shall be required to provide written certification from a licensed health care provider that the medical condition or mental health condition prevents the person from being able to wear a face covering. In such instances, the person would be required to wear a face shield unless the written certification from the licensed health care provider also indicated the medical condition or mental health condition prevents the person from being able to wear a face shield. Any protected health information ("PHI") which is received or maintained shall be protected consistent with board policy 826 and the HIPAA privacy rule.

Students who claim or request an exception or exemption from the requirement to wear a face covering due to a disability but who have not been identified as disabled may be referred for assessment to determine if they are a child with a disability entitled to services and protections due to a disabling condition. If a student wishes to request an exemption to the mask-wearing rule due to a disability, the student and his/her parent/guardian must submit a written "Mask/Face Covering Exemption Request" to the Building Administrator.

As to faculty and staff, refusal to comply with the requirements of this policy, as directed, may result in discipline according to their respective collective bargaining agreement or other board policies for, without limitation, insubordination.

As to students, this policy shall be implemented consistent with school policies including, without limitation, student expression, and dress and grooming. [3] [4] Intentional or repeated violations of this policy may be categorized as a Level III infraction in accordance with the school discipline code.

As to visitors, refusal to comply with the requirements of this policy as directed, may result in the visitor being removed from the building of the school district or being precluded entry into the building of the school district.

Delegation of Authority

The Board of School Directors directs the Superintendent or designee to implement rules and procedures in each building to ensure compliance with this face covering policy.

[1][2]