

MANDATORY FACE COVERINGS

- A. Pursuant to the authority of the School Board under Article IX, section 4 of the Florida Constitution, face coverings must be worn by all students, employees, visitors, vendors or any other persons, while in or on school board property where social distancing guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) cannot be maintained.

This includes, but is not limited to, school buses, class changes, cafeteria lines, in confined quarters, or any other places where social distancing guidelines cannot be followed.

B. FACE COVERING TYPES

- I. Cloth Face Coverings: Cloth face coverings are acceptable for compliance with this policy provided that the face covering covers both the nose and mouth of the person and fits snugly against the sides of the person’s face with no gaps.
- II. Commercially Produced Masks: Commercially produced surgical masks or respirators are acceptable for compliance with this policy but are not mandated.
- III. Face Shields: Although not as effective as cloth face coverings, or commercially produced masks and there is currently not enough evidence to support the effectiveness of face shields for source control, face shields may be worn as a substitute for cloth face coverings in situations where it may not be feasible to wear a mask.¹ If face shields are used without a mask, they should wrap around the sides of the wearer’s face and extend below the chin. Disposable face shields should only be worn for single use. Reusable face shields should be cleaned and disinfected after each use.

C. EXCEPTIONS

- I. Medical Certifications: A face covering shall not be required for persons who present school officials with a certification from a health care provider that the person has a medical, physical, or psychological contraindication that prevents the person from being able to safely wear a face covering.
- II. General Exceptions: A face covering will not be required for any person inside or outside of any school district facility or school district building while maintaining appropriate social distancing including:
- a.) in strenuous physical activity, including but not limited to walking, running, jogging, while engaged in sports or other physical activities, while indoors or outdoors, where social distancing can be maintained;

¹ See CDC, Considerations for Wearing Masks, [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html), Aug. 7, 2020.

- b.) the school district official supervising the activity that the student is engaged in authorizes the student to remove her/his face covering during that activity;
- c.) outside of any school district building or vehicle, so long as the person is able to maintain social distancing guidelines;
- d.) inside or outside a school district facility while such person is eating;
- e.) a face covering will not be required for such person to receive health care, or to undergo health care treatment, or if a person is experiencing acute trouble breathing, is unconscious, or incapacitated, or is unable to remove the mask without assistance;
- f.) children in kindergarten and below will be educated, encouraged and expected to wear a face covering, but failure to wear a face covering will not prohibit such student's attendance if he/she is unable to wear a face covering at all times;
- g.) students participating in extracurricular activities, such as athletics or marching band, where the wearing of a face covering is not practicable or may create a health risk, will not be required to wear face coverings during the activity but must still follow any and all safety procedures in place for the activity. The district will follow all FHSAA guidance for athletic activities.

D. AVAILABLE PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

To the extent possible, the district will provide students and staff with a supply of cloth masks or other appropriate facial coverings and will maintain emergency supplies of disposable face coverings so that no student will be in a position where they will not have access to a mask.

E. DISCIPLINE

The wearing of a mask is a health issue. Compliance will be dealt with as a health issue, not as a disciplinary issue. A Student's willful refusal to comply with the terms of this policy will be addressed consistent with the Student Code of Conduct².

F. ~~EMERGENCY POLICY~~

~~This Emergency Policy takes effect on August 4, 2020 and will remain in effect for 90 days unless extended pursuant to section 120.54(4), Florida Statutes.~~

Legal Authority:

Sections 1001.32, 1001.41, 1001.42 and 1001.43, Florida Statutes

Laws Implemented:

² The Student Code of Conduct Policy 208 E and 208 S addresses insubordination as a level III-Major 1 Offense.

1001.42, 1003.31 and 1012.27, Florida Statutes

History:

(Adopted – July 28, 2020)

(Effective Date ~~August 4, 2020~~ ~~November 2, 2020~~ October 27, 2020)

(Revised – October 27, 2020)