

POLICY 3.24

COVID-19 – FACE MASKS

POLICY:

- (1) **Subject to the exceptions below, all individuals, including students, employees, visitors, and vendors, must wear a face mask that covers both the nose and mouth at all times while at or inside any building, facility, or bus or other vehicle owned, leased, or operated by the School Board.**

- (2) **Exceptions.** A face mask will not be required in the following instances:

Infants: A face mask shall not be required for persons younger than two (2) years of age;

Medical Certification: A mask shall not be required for persons who present school officials with a certification from a licensed 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 mask. If a person has a medical certification that he/she cannot wear a face mask, the person shall be required to wear a face shield unless the person also has a certification from a licensed health care provider that he/she has a medical, physical or psychological contraindication that prevents the person from also being able to safely wear a face shield;

Driving Alone in District Vehicles: A face mask shall not be required for an individual who is occupying a vehicle without other passengers;

Outdoors with Social Distancing: A face mask shall not be required for persons outside of any school district building or vehicle provided that such person maintains social distancing (six (6) feet minimum distance) from other persons;

Indoors when Alone: A face mask shall not be required for persons inside a school district building when they are alone in an enclosed space such as an office space or a classroom;

Mini Breaks: Teachers may allow students to have mini breaks of five (5) minutes or less when students are sitting quietly at their desks behind desk shields when they are appropriately socially distanced;

Regularly Scheduled Mealtimes: A face mask shall not be required for any person inside or outside a school district facility while such person is eating during a planned mealtime;

Strenuous Physical Activity: A face mask shall not be required for any person inside or outside of any school district facility school district building while such person is engaged in strenuous physical activity;

Arts Classes (dance, music, theatre, visual art) and Performances: Face masks will be worn in arts classes during the school day. In band classes, the mask can be removed for playing, if needed, but replaced

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immediately for any talking, counting rests, etc. If a performance or rehearsal is outside or in a very large venue and proper social distancing is possible, removal of the mask may be permitted;

During Receipt of Health Care: A face mask shall not be required for any person inside or outside of any school district facility when removal of the face mask is necessary for such person to receive health care or to undergo a health care examination from authorized health care personnel;

Instructional Delivery: Teachers may choose to wear a face shield instead of a mask when the teacher believes wearing a face shield is appropriate to effectively deliver instruction; or

Exigent Circumstances: A face mask will not be required if a person is experiencing acute trouble breathing, is unconscious or incapacitated, or is personally unable to remove the mask without assistance.

- (3) **Face Masks.** All individuals subject to this Policy are encouraged to supply their own face mask that complies with this Policy. Additionally, the District will maintain a supply of face masks for those who need them to comply with this Policy.

The following types of face masks are approved for compliance with this Policy:

(1) Commercially produced surgical masks or respirators (for example an N95 mask); or

(2) Commercially produced or home-made cloth face masks provided that they cover both the mouth and nose and fit snugly against the sides of a person's face with little to no gaps. Face masks shall be made of a solid cloth material or other suitable solid material. It may not be made of lace, mesh, or other largely porous material. The principal shall have the final authority to determine the suitability of any face mask material.

Gaiters, buffs, or bandanas may not be worn as an alternative to face masks.

Anyone may use a face shield in addition to a face mask.

All face masks and shields must comply with school dress codes.

- (4) **Enforcement.**

EMPLOYEES: All employees are expected to comply with the face mask requirements above for the health and safety of themselves, their colleagues, students, and others. Employees who do not comply should be reminded of the policy. If they refuse to comply after being reminded, the employee may be disciplined according to their respective Collective

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Bargaining Agreement or other School Board Policies for insubordination.

STUDENTS: All students are expected to follow face mask requirements above for the health and safety of themselves, their fellow students, school staff, and others. Students who do not comply should be reminded of the policy. If a student refuses to comply after being reminded, the student will be sent home and will be required to receive their educational instruction via remote learning.

OTHERS: All other visitors should be reminded that face masks are required while at or inside a District school/facility. A visitor will not be admitted to a District school/facility without an appropriate face mask.

- (5) **Basis of Policy.** This Policy is based upon the fact that the State of Florida has been under a declared state of emergency because of the COVID-19 pandemic since March 9, 2020, and that state and national authorities, including the Centers for Disease Control and the Florida Department of Health, have strongly recommended the wearing of face masks to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- (6) **Duration of Policy.** This Policy becomes effective upon its adoption and will sunset as of June 30, 2021 unless extended or amended prior to that date.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

1001.41; 1001.42, 1001.43, 120.54 F.S.

LAWS IMPLEMENTED:

1001.42(4) & (8); 1003.31 1012.23, F.S.

HISTORY: EMERGENCY POLICY 2020-2

ADOPTED: