

8450.01 FACE COVERINGS

The Board adopts this policy requiring face coverings to comply with state requirements and recommendations to prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19. The current consensus among public health experts is that face coverings are a preventative measure that can reduce the spread of COVID-19, when used along with other preventative measures, including social distancing, frequent handwashing, and cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces.

Staff and Volunteers

All school employees and volunteers (including contractors) shall wear a face covering while working or present in any school building, facility or other area of a school campus, or while operating or present in any school owned vehicle with more than one person in the vehicle (including, but not limited to, buses and vans).

Exceptions include when:

- (1) Face coverings in the school setting are prohibited by law or regulation;
- (2) Face coverings are in violation of documented industry standards;
- (3) Face coverings are not advisable for health reasons;
- (4) Face coverings are in violation of the school's documented safety policies;
- (5) Face coverings are not required when the staff works alone in an assigned work area;
- (6) There is a functional (practical) reason for a staff member or volunteer to not to wear a face covering in the workplace.

Schools must provide written justification to local health officials, upon request, explaining why a staff member is not required to wear a face covering. Requests for accommodations must be directed to a building administrator or the human resources department and exemptions must be in writing.

School nurses or staff who care for individuals with symptoms must use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), provided by the school.

Students

All students must wear a face covering while attending school or a school function in any school building, facility or other area of a school campus, and when riding in school-provided transportation, as directed by the Superintendent/designee. The Superintendent will publish expectations for wearing face coverings that are consistent with local, state, and federal guidance and requirements. This policy applies to students waiting outside school buildings before and after school, and to students waiting at bus stops.

Students required to wear a face covering who refuse to follow this policy may be required to leave the school campus and are subject to appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the student code of conduct.

School Visitors

School visitors must wear a face covering in any school building or facility, including waiting outside school buildings before and after school. Face coverings are not required for:

- (1) Children younger than 2 years old;
- (2) Anyone with a documented medical condition that prevents them from wearing a face covering;
- (3) Anyone who has trouble breathing;
- (4) Anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance.

General Rules for Face Coverings

- (1) Staff and students are required to have a face covering with them at all times. Staff and students are responsible for their own face covering.
- (2) Individuals may remove their face covering when eating or drinking.
- (3) Face coverings should be cloth/fabric and cannot be made of mesh or cloth/fabric that is transparent (with the exception of plastic components of a cloth/fabric face covering that allow for viewing a person's mouth and face shields). Face coverings must cover an individual's nose, mouth, and chin.
- (4) Face coverings are not required outside when individuals are able to maintain a social distance of six feet or more from individuals who are not members of their household.
- (5) Individuals should wash their hands before putting on a face covering, if possible. The face covering should fit snugly against the side of an individual's face. Face coverings should not create any difficulty breathing while worn and should be secured by a tie or elastic to prevent movement.
- (6) All face coverings must be appropriate for the school setting and comply with applicable dress codes. Face coverings that contain offensive words or images or that may substantially disrupt the educational process are prohibited. Face coverings that are part of costumes or cover the entire face are not appropriate, with the exception of face shields. Face coverings for staff shall be professional and appropriate for the school setting and comply with any applicable dress code. Face coverings for students shall comply with any applicable dress code.
- (7) Face shields that wrap around the face and extend below the chin may be considered as an alternative where cloth face coverings would hinder the learning process.

Training

The District will provide training to staff and students on this policy and the use and care of face coverings along with other preventative measures, including social distancing, frequent handwashing, and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces.

Duration of Policy

This policy is adopted on an interim and temporary basis consistent with current legal requirements and recommendations. In the event legal requirements and/or recommendations

change, the Superintendent is authorized to align the requirements in this policy to those changes, pending further Board action.

Legal References: Ohio Department of Health *COVID-19 Health and Prevention Guidance for Ohio K-12 Schools* (July 7, 2020)

Centers for Disease Control *Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19* (June 28, 2020)