

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

August 11, 2020

SUBJECT:

Addition of Temporary Policy ADD Face Covering, First Reading

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In alignment with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations, the State Department of Education released the South Carolina Department of Education Face Covering Guidelines for K12 Public Schools intended to reduce the spread of the pandemic (COVID-19), recommending that a face covering be worn in public settings when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. The district will consider the circumstances in the community and consult local health officials for the administration of this policy.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

Policy ADD provides administration with guidance on the use of face coverings for staff members, students, and visitors. The guidance is based on the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations and the South Carolina Department of Education Face Covering Guidelines for K12 Public Schools.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the addition of Temporary Policy ADD Face Covering, First Reading

ATTACHMENTS:

Policy ADD Face Covering

PREPARED BY:

Salvatore Minolfo

FACE COVERING

Code **ADD** Issued **08/20**

To reduce the spread of the pandemic (COVID-19), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that a face covering be worn in public settings when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. The district will consider the circumstances in the community and consult local health officials for the implementation of this policy.

Definitions

A **face covering** is a piece of fabric, cloth, or other material that covers the wearer's nose, mouth, and chin simultaneously and is secured to the wearer's face by elastic, ties, or other means. Acceptable face coverings may be homemade, and they may be reusable or disposable.

Staff Members

Staff members are expected to wear a face covering while on district property or conducting business on behalf of the district (e.g. driving a bus, conducting a home visit, supervising athletic events, etc.). Staff members include, but are not limited to, salaried and hourly employees, school volunteers, student teachers, and interns. The district may provide masks to staff members and expects that reusable masks will be washed regularly to ensure maximum protection.

Staff members, including bus drivers, who have trouble breathing and/or those with special healthcare needs as noted by a medical doctor should NOT be required to wear face coverings.

Students

All students are expected to wear face coverings while on district property, on district transportation, or attending a school related activity (e.g. athletic events, field trips, etc.). Certain classes or activities may be granted a limited exception to this requirement at the discretion of the superintendent or his/her designee. The district may provide masks to students and expects that reusable masks will be washed regularly to ensure maximum protection.

Students who should NOT be required to wear face coverings:

- Those younger than two years old;
- Those who have trouble breathing;
- Those unable to remove the covering without assistance; and/or
- Those with special healthcare or educational needs as determined by an Individualized Education Program (IEP), 504 Accommodations Plan, or an individual student healthcare plan, or by a medical doctor.

Additional exceptions for wearing a face covering may include, but are not limited to, the following activities:

- Mealtimes;
- Outdoor recess where students can maintain a physical distance of at least six (6) feet; and/or
- Administration of medication.

Visitors

Non-essential visitors to district buildings will be limited in accordance with policy KI, *Visitors*. Visitors include, but are not limited to, parents/legal guardians, contract service providers, and

delivery persons. Visitors will wear a face covering while on district property. Visitors will be asked to leave district property if they refuse to wear a face covering).

Accommodations

Requests for exceptions under this policy for health or developmental conditions or religious exemption will be considered by the superintendent or his/her designee, who may request documentation justifying the exception.

Students (or parents/legal guardians) who request to be exempted from wearing a face covering for other than a health or developmental condition or religious exemption will be offered virtual learning for the period that face coverings are required on district property.

Harassment and Bullying

The district will not tolerate harassment of anyone wearing face coverings or those with recognized exemptions to the face covering requirement and will appropriately discipline students, staff, or visitors who engage in behavior that interferes with any student or staff member's ability to comply with this policy.

This policy is intended to be effective until further notice and to align with district policies, including, but not limited to, student and staff dress codes. To the extent this policy does not align, this policy will supersede others in accordance with applicable law and regulations in effect at the time. For clarification on potential conflicts between policies, the interpretation of the superintendent or his/her designee is final.

The board authorizes the superintendent or his/her designee to amend these requirements as necessary to meet health and safety guidelines.

Adopted 08/11/20