

# TEMPORARY POLICY

## Policy ADD Voluntary Use of Protective Face Covering

*Issued 9/20; 8/21*

To reduce the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that a face covering be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated and in crowded settings when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. The district adopts this temporary policy to allow students, staff, and visitors the opportunity to voluntarily wear a protective face covering without violating district dress code policies. This policy does not require the wearing of protective face coverings.

### Definitions

A *face covering* is a uniform piece of fabric, cloth, or other material that fully and securely covers the wearer's nose, mouth, and chin simultaneously and is secured to the wearer's face by elastic, ties, or other means and is worn for the purpose of protection against, and reduction of, the spread of COVID-19.

A *face shield* is made of flexible plastic that wraps around the wearer's face and extends below his/her chin.

### Face Covering Requirements

Face coverings will not be so extreme or inappropriate to the school setting as to disrupt the educational process as determined by the administration.

Face coverings will not display emblems related to alcohol, illegal or abusive substances, gangs, violence, sex, or obscenities.

Face coverings may have school-approved/manufactured logos on them.

### Staff Members

Staff members may voluntarily wear a face covering while on district property or conducting business on behalf of the district off district property (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.

### Students

All students from kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade may voluntarily wear face coverings while on district property, on district transportation, or while attending a school-related activity

(e.g. athletic events, field trips, etc.). Certain classes or activities may require a denial of this permission at the discretion of the superintendent or his/her designee.

The face coverings permitted to be worn herein will be exempt from the prohibition on head coverings set forth in policy JICA, Student Dress, Articles and Displays.

## **Visitors**

Non-essential visitors to district buildings will be limited in accordance with administrative rule KI-R, *Visitors*. *Visitors* are defined as persons who are not district employees. Visitors include, but are not limited to, parents/legal guardians, contract service providers, and delivery persons. Visitors may voluntarily wear a face covering while on district property. Visitors may be asked to temporarily remove the face covering for identification and/or security purposes. Visitors will be asked to leave district property if they refuse to remove the face covering when asked for identification or security purposes.

## **Harassment and Bullying**

The district will not tolerate harassment of anyone wearing a face covering or those who do not wear face coverings and will appropriately discipline students, staff members, or visitors who engage in behavior that interferes with any student or staff member's ability to wear a face covering pursuant to this policy or that interferes with any student or staff member's right not to wear a face covering.

## **Discipline**

Failure or refusal by a staff member or student to comply with this policy may result in disciplinary action in accordance with district policy and codes of conduct, as applicable.

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, it will supersede others in accordance with applicable laws 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, after reasonable notification to board members, to amend these requirements as necessary to meet health and safety guidelines.

Adopted July 20, 2021.

Colleton County School District

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Reference:

Center for Disease Control Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 schools dated July 9, 2021.