



FACE MASK POLICY

USE OF FACE MASKS/COVERINGS

The Board of Education is committed to providing students, staff, and visitors with a safe and healthy environment.

In order to maintain a healthy environment, the Board will follow the mandates and requirements set forth by the federal government, Center for Disease Control, Ohio Governor, Ohio State Health Department, Cuyahoga County Health Department, Ohio Department of Education, and other entities ("Directing Entities") as it relates to protecting the health of students. If any of the Directing Entities or District Administration requires staff, students, and/or visitors to wear cloth face coverings / masks while attending school, reporting to work at a school, or visiting a school, the District's Administration will follow and enforce such directives.

As of July 2020, pursuant to COVID-19 Health and Prevention Guidance for Ohio K-12 Schools issued by the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Education, all staff members must wear face coverings.

Students, staff and volunteers

Face covering must be worn:

1. While on school grounds (except when eating or drinking).
2. While leaving school.
3. While on the school bus.

Face coverings / masks shall not include surgical masks or respirators (as those should be reserved for healthcare works), masks designed to be worn for costume purposes, etc. All face coverings / masks shall meet the requirements of the appropriate dress code policies and/or codes of conduct.

Exceptions to this face coverings policy may be made for the following:

- Children younger than 2 years old;
- Outdoor activities;
- While eating lunch;
- At the discretion of the classroom instructor when other social distancing precautions are possible;
- Facial coverings will significantly interfere with the learning process;
- Anyone who has trouble breathing;

- Anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance;
- Facial coverings are in violation of documented industry standards;
- Individuals who have received approval from District Administration after discussing their request not to wear a face covering / mask due to a physical, mental or developmental health condition; if wearing a mask would lead to a medical emergency or would introduce significant safety concerns.
- In this exception, the District Administration may also discuss other possible accommodations for the student or staff member. Such discussion shall follow District policies and procedures under Section 504 and the ADA. Face coverings / masks shall not include surgical masks or respirators (as those should be reserved for healthcare works), masks designed to be worn for costume purposes, etc. All face coverings / masks shall meet the requirements of the appropriate dress code policies and/or codes of conduct.

Polaris Career Center is required to provide written justification to the local health officials upon request explaining why a staff member is not required to wear a facial covering in the school. Therefore, if any of the above exceptions are made, the request for such exception must be submitted in writing to the individual's supervisor, and a decision on the request will be provided in writing. An individual may be required to wear a face shield or other face covering as appropriate for an accommodation of this face covering requirement.

Any school nurse or staff who care for individuals with COVID-19 symptoms must use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) in accordance with OSHA standards. If face masks / coverings are required, and no exception has been applied, students and/or staff who violate this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the applicable Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code, staff Code of Conduct, and in accordance with policies of the Board.

