

COVID-19 FACE MASKS

The School Committee is mindful of the evolving need for emergency measures to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. In consideration of the recommendations issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Massachusetts Department of Health, and the Massachusetts Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, the School Committee is adopting this emergency policy for all students, employees and visitors of Keefe Regional Technical High School.

Until further action of the School Committee, all students attending Keefe Regional Technical High School shall be required to wear a mask or **(a)** while attending school or a school function in any school building, facility or other area of a school campus, and **(b)** when riding in school-provided transportation. All masks must cover the nose and mouth of the student. This policy applies to students waiting outside school buildings, before and after school, and to students waiting at bus stops. Students shall wear masks at all times except for the following:

- Students may remove masks for eating or drinking;
- Students may remove masks when appropriate social distancing measures are in place as determined by a teacher or school administrator;
- Students may be exempted from this policy by the School Leadership Team following a review of signed documentation from the student's medical provider stating the student's inability to wear a mask due to a documented medical condition;
- Students may remove masks on a case-by-case basis for specific instructional needs and other activities, as determined by a teacher, in which case the teacher will utilize appropriate social distancing measures; or
- Students may be exempted from this policy due to special behavioral or individualized needs as determined by the Special Education Director and in accordance with signed recommendations from the student's medical provider.

Masks can be disposable or reusable and will need to: fully cover the nose and mouth and secure under the chin, be made with at least 2 layers of breathable material, fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face, and be secured with ties or ear loops. Based on guidance from health authorities, neck gaiters, open-chin triangle bandanas and face covering containing valves, mesh material or holes of any kind will not be considered appropriate masks. If a staff member or student does not have a mask, they will be provided with a mask by the school district.

Visitors in violation of this policy will be denied entry to the school/district facility.

This policy will remain in place until rescinded by the School Committee.