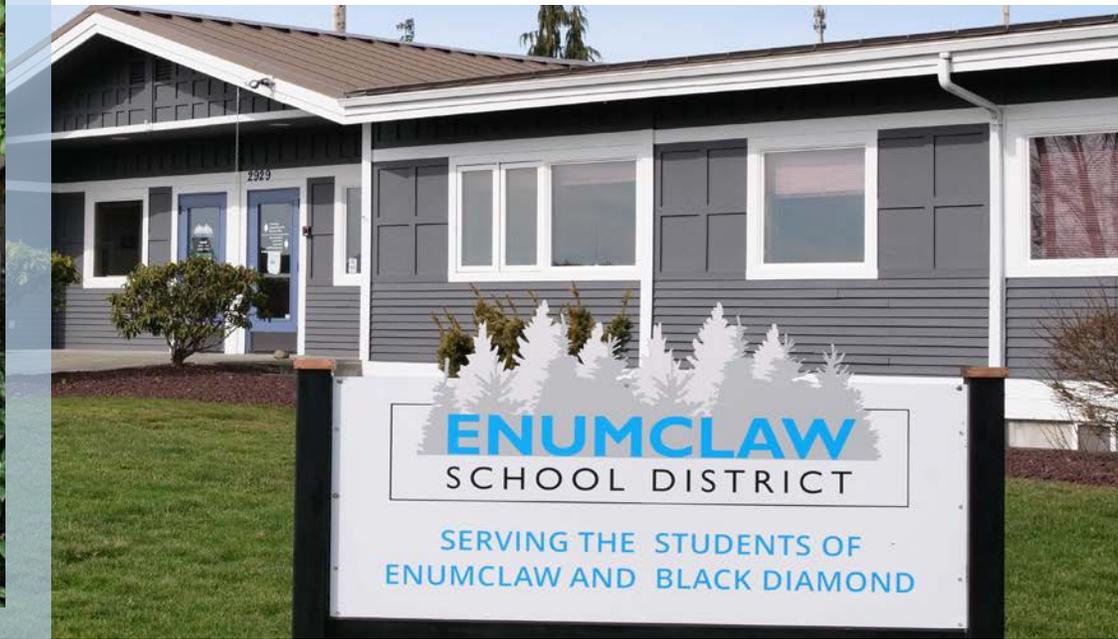


# A letter from DR. CAREY

AUGUST 20, 2021



Dear ESD Families,

We are excited to welcome students back to full in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year on September 1st!

## School Supplies

You can find school supply lists on our website. Our Back-to-School resource hub also provides links to other information you may find helpful as you and your student(s) prepare for the first day of school.



## State of WA Mask Mandate

We have received questions regarding the ramifications of not following the mask mandate issued by the Governor. I have included some of those ramifications below as outlined in the letter from OSPI, [linked here](#) and available for you to read on our website. The ongoing mask order continues to apply to public schools, charter schools, private schools, and tribal compact schools.

- "Under the authority of RCW 43.06.220, the Governor has broad emergency powers, and they have the power of law!"
- "By constitutional authority and RCW 28A.300.040, one of the state Superintendent's clear powers is, 'supervision over all matters pertaining to the public schools of the state.'

Apportionment amounts and timing are shaped by additional law, but let me be clear: Boards or districts that intentionally disobey, dismiss, or shun an explicit law, including a Governor's executive order, which has the power of law, will see an immediate halt to their basic education apportionment, and their federal funds that come through OSPI."

- "Local community members will always have the right to bring their grievances to their elected leaders, but in the case of these public health measures, they are not local decisions. **Local boards of directors** have broad discretion on **the details of instructional delivery**. They are **not empowered, however, to override the legal authority of public health officers or the Governor in times of a public health emergency.**"
- "Community actions that result in board actions that violate the law, including executive orders, will jeopardize school budgets, local school personnel, and ultimately the opening of school to in-person learning this fall and beyond."
- "Individuals who violate the mask orders, or other layered mitigation strategies, not only carry individual legal risks, but they also risk cases and outbreaks in school that will warrant quarantines, school building closures, and disruptions in high-quality in-person learning."

## **School Administrator Training Aligned to SB 5044**

Our **district leaders** will be participating in the WASA Equity Initiative book study to meet training requirements as required by SB 5044. This training is for **district leadership staff only**. The WASA book study will be "using the book 'Caste' as a launching pad for learning about the WHY of leading for racial equity, leaders will push their own thinking, vocabulary, and moral imperative on this work, while leaving with modules they can take and use with their district/school teams, moving the organizational culture towards equity and excellence." For any additional questions regarding SB 5044 and/or how our district is aligning our training to meet these requirements, please contact our district office.

## **COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement for K-12 Employees**

On August 18, 2021, Governor Jay Inslee announced a new directive legally requiring all K-12 school district employees to get a COVID-19 vaccination, or a medical or religious exemption, by mid-October. This proclamation **does not apply to students**. The COVID-19 vaccine is not required for students. All staff and students are still required to wear masks or face coverings in schools and on school buses, regardless of vaccination status.

Please note that this announcement will not delay our return to school buildings this fall. Our first day of school will continue to be **September 1, 2021**.

Some of the key elements of the proclamation are outlined below:

- Enumclaw School District and our Board of Directors do not have local control over this matter. We are legally required to follow the Governor's directive. Employees may obtain a medical or religious exemption.
- There is not an option to undergo regular testing for COVID-19 instead of receiving a vaccination or exemption.
- Employees will need to provide proof of vaccination. Attestation is not an allowable substitute for vaccination.
- Vaccination is a condition of employment in the proclamation. Only a medical or religious exemption will substitute for the vaccine requirement.

Again, **this proclamation does not include vaccine requirements for students.** We are sharing this information so families understand some of the health and safety requirements in place for the 2021–22 school year.

### **Return to School FAQs:**

**Q.** Are students required to wear a mask at recess?

**A.** No, masks are not required **outdoors**. However, ESD supports students and staff who **choose** to wear a mask or face covering outdoors.

**Q.** What will lunch look like this year?

**A.** All students will have access to a hard surface to eat their meal. In most cases, this will look like traditional tables and chairs. In some cases, this may include individual table trays (due to space limitations).

**Q.** Who is considered a “close contact” of someone who tests positive for COVID?

**A.** A “close contact” In a K-12 indoor classroom, the close contact definition excludes students who were at least three feet away from an infected student when (a) both students were wearing face coverings/masks and (b) other prevention strategies were in place. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

### **Partnering with Rainier Foothills Wellness Foundation to Provide Free Mental Health Counseling Provided by Licensed Counselors at TMMS, EMS and EHS**

We are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to partner with RFWF to provide in-school mental health counseling services for students at EHS, EMS and TMMS throughout the 2021-2022 school year. With funding from the City of Enumclaw, City of Black Diamond, Mutual of Enumclaw, Milgard Family Ruth Foundation, CHI Franciscan, individual donors and RFWF, RFWF is able to provide this program for students.

*Nicole Koontz- Enumclaw Middle School*

*Charlie Gates- Thunder Mountain Middle School and EHS*

*Jessica Eidens- Program Director, EHS*

If your student would benefit from services provided through this program or if you would like more information on the program and services, please contact Jessica Eidens at [jessica\\_eidens@enumclaw.wednet.edu](mailto:jessica_eidens@enumclaw.wednet.edu).

Enjoy your weekend,

Shaun V. Carey