



ENTERPRISE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

1155 Mistletoe Lane, Redding, CA 96002 • Phone: (530) 224-4100 • FAX: (530) 224-4101 • www.eesd.net

Empowering every child, every day to create a better world

October 30, 2021

Dear EESD Families,

In response to many of the messages and questions I have received, I am sharing the following information: what we currently know, what the district is doing, and what you can do. There are no new changes to relay, but hopefully this provides clarity. I realize how extraordinarily difficult this is and that our community is very divided over the issue of a required COVID-19 vaccine.

What do we know right now?

- On October 1, the governor announced his intention to mandate COVID-19 vaccines for all students and staff after the vaccines for children receive full FDA approval.
- Once FDA approval occurs, public health will develop the rules associated with the vaccine.
- The mandate is not expected to go into effect until July 1, or next school year.
- The mandate currently does allow for both medical and personal belief exemptions.
- In a state of emergency, state mandates and public health orders carry the force of law.
- If the legislature takes action and passes the vaccine mandate into law, there would only be medical exemptions.
- The legislature does not reconvene until January and that process includes input from the public.

What is the district doing?

- Last week all school districts in Shasta County compiled information about the input we have received from staff and families, including how many students stayed home on October 18. That information has been shared at the state level both with our state superintendent and our state representatives.
- This week, as a county, we began drafting a collective letter to send to the governor, state superintendent, and our state representatives on behalf of all the school districts in Shasta County. The purpose of the letter is to relay local conditions and request that the state does not move forward with legislation of the COVID-19 vaccine. By not moving forward with legislation, the current personal belief exemptions of the vaccine mandate would remain in place, thus allowing families and staff the opportunity for choice. What we have frequently heard is that people want to have a choice.



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What can you do?

- Contact your local representatives and let them know how you feel. Both Senator Dahle and Representative Dahle serve the interests of our area and are directly involved in the legislative process.
- Share your input with us through a [survey link](#) on the COVID-19 response page of our website.

Although we are always happy to hear from you, please understand that school districts and school boards do not make decisions about statewide vaccination requirements for schools and are obligated to follow state laws and mandates. There are a lot of misleading stories circulating about what various boards have done or can do, so I want to emphasize that those decisions are made at the state level. It is more influential to contact your state representative if you want them to know your stance on a COVID-19 vaccine requirement.

I would urge you to wait before making any big decisions about next year. It may be helpful to know that we will provide an independent study option for students that arranges for both a teacher and all materials needed.

It is important that we not lose sight of the impact this pandemic has had on those around us. This fall our community experienced the highest infection rate in the state and many of our neighbors and families have suffered from illness or the loss of a loved one. We mustn't forget that.

I regret the enormous challenges we are facing right now. Please continue to reach out with questions. We promise to continue to give you our best and focus on making our schools a great place for kids to learn and grow! Thank you for entrusting us with that privilege.

Sincerely,

Heather Armelino, Superintendent