

WESTERN PLACER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

600 Sixth St, Suite 400, Lincoln CA 95648
Ph: (916) 645-6350 • Fax: (916) 645-6356

Board of Trustees: Kris Wyatt
Damian Armitage
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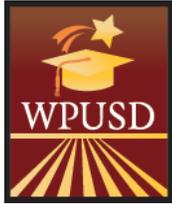
Superintendent: Kerry Callahan

To: Parents of Students Excluded from School for Refusing to Wear a Mask

From: Western Placer Unified School District

The following information explains the legal mandates for students who refuse to wear a mask and the District's process for responding to these students:

- If a student without a medical exemption continues to refuse to wear a mask, the student will be sent home and excluded from school on a public health basis. This is not a disciplinary suspension.
- A student who is excluded from school will be marked absent from school and the absence will be unexcused. The student will not have access to class work and will be ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities.
- If a parent refuses to pick up an excluded student from school, the student will be still be marked with an unexcused absence, will not have access to class work and will be ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities. In this situation, the student will be sent to a supervised location on campus away from other students until the end of the school day.
- If the parent continues to refuse to pick the student up, the school may contact County Public Health, Child Services, or law enforcement as necessary. In addition, the school may choose to formally exclude the student from entering a school campus until the school receives a signed assurance from the student and their parent that the student will comply with the mask requirement. If a student is excluded from a school campus they will be considered trespassing if they enter the campus.
- If the student returns to school on a following day and refuses to wear a mask and/or behaves in an insubordinate and disorderly way during the time the student is excluded, the student may be subject to other actions by the District permitted by the Education Code and other laws to ensure the District can maintain order and safety at school.



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- As the judge in the *Let Them Breathe* litigation stated “while there is a fundamental right to an education, courts routinely have permitted the exclusion of students who refuse to comply with public health and safety measures designed to prevent the spread of communicable diseases, measures far more invasive than a mask mandate.”
- A student who is excluded for public health reasons will be offered an alternative educational setting. While a student cannot be forced to participate in independent study, it is appropriate to offer independent study as an education alternative to a student who refuses to wear a mask to school.
- Students who refuse to wear a mask have choices for how to receive their education: wear a mask to school and attend school in person, participate in independent study through the District, or enroll in a homeschool or private school program.