

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
WESTERN PLACER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
LINCOLN, CALIFORNIA**

**RESOLUTION OF THE WESTERN
PLACER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGARDING
COVID-19 AND STUDENT MASKS**

RESOLUTION NO. 21/22.18

WHEREAS, the Western Placer Unified School District Board of Trustees (“Board”) strongly values preserving staff and student safety during COVID-19, and also strives to balance that safety with the needs of District students to engage in an in-person learning environment; and

WHEREAS, the Board acknowledges its responsibility to provide all students equal access to the educational programs of the District; and

WHEREAS, the Board acknowledges the growing mental health crisis among school aged children and is committed to protecting not only the physical health of our students, but also the social, emotional, and mental health of our students;

WHEREAS, the members of the Board are strong proponents of individual responsibility and personal choice, such that students and their families can generally make their own decisions about their personal health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 vaccines are now available for students five years of age and older for those that choose to obtain them as guided by the students' wishes, and that of their parents and guardians. In addition, COVID-19 vaccines have been available to District employees, many of which have elected to get vaccinated; and

WHEREAS, testing for COVID-19 and other mitigation measures are readily available at numerous locations throughout the District; and

WHEREAS, the positive case rates within the District have been significantly declining over the last two weeks and are likely to continue to do so; and

WHEREAS, the District has implemented numerous safety mitigation efforts to decrease transmission of COVID-19, including installing MERV-13 filters in all schools

since September 2020 and that school maintenance has opened up air exchange systems so classrooms are receiving as much outside air as possible; and

WHEREAS, on February 15, 2022, the CDPH and the Governor lifted the mask mandate for adults and children throughout the State while extending the requirement for masks at school, with the possibility of “reevaluating” the school masking policy on February 28, 2022, even though the State cannot establish the effectiveness of continued school masking with any recent peer-reviewed studies; and

WHEREAS, The Board believes that the Governor’s K-12 mask mandate is ill-advised and stands in opposition to the educational and social-emotional goals of the State; and

WHEREAS, the District has followed and enforced the student mask mandate required by CDPH guidelines during the 2021-2022 school year faithfully and to the best of its ability; and

WHEREAS, the District has no effective mechanism to exclude students who refuse to wear a mask because of rules set forth in the Education Code and students excluded from school pursuant to the Education Code have declined to enroll in Independent Study and returned to in-person learning, without wearing a mask; and

WHEREAS, local law enforcement routinely assists the District to enforce student discipline matters. However, the Lincoln Police Department has informed the District that they do not have the authority to enforce the exclusion of students from school due to noncompliance with the CDPH masking mandate.

WHEREAS, the District has requested assistance from the CDPH, Governor Newsom, and other elected officials for the increasing disruption caused by the refusal to follow the mask mandates at schools but have received no response or assistance to date. As such, the Board is taking the initiative to do what is best to resolve these issues for the well-being of our school community; and

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, the District will continue to follow the CDPH guidance requiring masks be worn while indoors at school, unless they have an approved medical exemption, until such time as the statewide mandate is lifted.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board implements, effective immediately following the adoption of this resolution, that unmasked students will not be excluded from in-person learning, removed from the classroom, nor separated or segregated within a classroom; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, the WPUSD will continue to make available high quality masks to teachers, staff, and students on a daily basis and will promote the availability and efficacy of one-way masking;

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board supports its teachers, staff, and administrators to give their full attention to the district's well-articulated academic program and not focus on masking requirements as a distraction to an inclusive learning environment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that effective immediately following the adoption of this resolution, the District will implement the following revised student mask protocol:

- Offering all students a mask.
- Notifying CDPH and Placer County Public Health of the number of students, on a weekly basis, who remain in school unmasked until Public Health authorities determine how and/or if they will enforce this mandate.
- Students will not be excluded from school by school personnel.

The foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Western Placer Unified School District of Lincoln, California, at a special meeting of the Board of Trustees held on February 22, 2022 by the following vote:

AYES: Nitsos, Wyatt, Freymond, Price, Armitage

NOES:

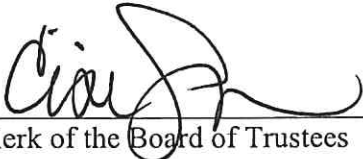
ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:



Damian Armitage, President

I, Criste Freymond, Clerk of the Board of Trustees of Western Placer Unified School District, HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution was duly introduced, passed and adopted by the Board of Trustees at a meeting thereof held on the 22nd day of February, 2022.



Criste Freymond
Clerk of the Board of Trustees