

NWLSD
USE OF FACE MASKS/COVERINGS

Approved August 10, 2020

Policy subject to change at the discretion of the NWLSD Board of Education

The Board of Education is committed to providing students, staff, and visitors with a safe and healthy environment.

In order to maintain a healthy environment, the Board will follow the mandates and requirements set forth by the federal government, Center for Disease Control, Ohio Governor, Ohio State Health Department, Hamilton County Public Health, Ohio Department of Education, and other entities (“Directing Entities”) as it relates to the protecting the health of students, staff, and visitors. If any of these Directing Entities or District Administration requires staff, students, and/or visitors to wear face coverings/masks while attending school, reporting to work at a school, or visiting a school, the District’s Administration will follow and enforce such directives.

STUDENT FACE MASK/COVERING POLICY

All students in grades K-12 will be required to wear face coverings/masks in the following areas:

- On the bus
- Entering and exiting the building
- Hallways during transition periods to class, lunch, restrooms, and recess
- In the classroom. *Teacher-directed face-covering breaks will be implemented throughout the day

Face coverings/masks should:

- Fully cover the mouth, nose, and chin;
- Fit snugly against the side of the nose, side of the face, and covers the chin so there are no gaps;
- Parents should maintain a clean face covering for their child;
- Not create difficulty breathing while worn; and
- Held secure through either a tie, elastic, etc. to prevent slipping.

Face coverings/masks are not required to be surgical masks or respirators (as those should be reserved for healthcare workers), and shall not be masks designed to be worn for costume purposes, etc. All face coverings/masks shall meet the requirements of the appropriate dress code policies and/or codes of conduct.

EXCEPTIONS

Exceptions to this face coverings policy may be made for the following:

- Children younger than 2 years old;
- Anyone who has trouble breathing;
- Anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance;
- Facial coverings that are in violation of documented industry standards;
- Facial coverings that will significantly interfere with the learning process;
- Facial coverings are not required when the staff works alone in an assigned work area;
- Facial coverings that are in violation of documented safety policies or documented industry standards;
- Individuals who have received approval from District administration after discussing their request not to wear a face covering/mask due to a physical, mental or developmental health condition, if wearing a mask would lead to a medical emergency or would introduce significant safety concerns.
 - In this exception, the District administration may also discuss other possible accommodations for the student or staff member. Such discussion shall follow District policies and procedures under Section 504 and the ADA.

Face masks/coverings are required, and therefore if no exception has been applied, students who violate this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the applicable Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code and in accordance with policies of the Board.

If a student refuses to wear a mask they will immediately be assigned to Online Learning in accordance with the Superintendent's authority to assign students contained in the Ohio Revised Code.