

**PASO ROBLES JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**RESOLUTION NO. 22-13
A RESOLUTION REGARDING MASK MANDATES FOR STUDENTS**

WHEREAS, the Paso Robles Joint Unified School District Board of Trustees (“Board”) has the duty to adopt policies necessary and proper for the efficient administration of the affairs of the District; and

WHEREAS, the Board strongly values preserving student safety, 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 give all students equal access to the educational programs of the District; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees acknowledges the growing mental health crisis among children and will, in all decisions, weigh the need for normalcy, acknowledging the District's responsibility to protect not only the physical health of our students, but also the social, emotional, and mental health of our students;

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees strongly supports individual responsibility and personal choice, such that students, their families, and staff members 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 the wishes of their parents and guardians. In addition, COVID-19 vaccines have been available to District employees, many of whom 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 Board of Trustees has implemented numerous safety mitigation efforts to decrease transmission of COVID-19, including upgrading our HVAC filters in all schools since September 2020, and opening up air exchange systems so classrooms are receiving as much outside air as possible; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (the "CDC") states that cloth masks “provide the least protection,” the California Department of Public Health (the "CDPH") no longer recommends cloth masks; and

WHEREAS, the CDC states that a surgical mask is “loose-fitting” and “does NOT provide the wearer with a reliable level of protection from inhaling smaller airborne particles and is not considered respiratory protection;” and

WHEREAS, the slogan “your mask protects me and my mask protects you,” is obsolete given the new information regarding cloth and surgical mask efficacy and may lead to students, teachers and staff falsely relying upon masks for protection from infection; and

WHEREAS, in light of many other states and countries ending mask mandates in the absence of evidence supporting them, the District no longer finds any legitimate reason for implementing a policy with no proven safety benefits; and

WHEREAS, mask mandates have shown no positive outcome on our campuses, result in constant disruption, division and behavior problems and are not supported by long term safety studies; and

WHEREAS, the CDPH and Governor Newsom and other State officials have not responded to any of our past attempts at communication on this topic; and

WHEREAS, the burden of proof regarding mask efficacy to continue masking school-age children lies with the State and it has failed to establish the effectiveness of continued student masking with any recent peer-reviewed studies; and

WHEREAS, the State eliminated the indoor mask mandate in most other venues starting on 16 February 2022;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Paso Robles Joint Union School District will provide N95 and/ or KN95 masks to teachers, staff and students on a daily basis and will promote the availability and efficacy of one-way masking with N95 and/or KN95 masks;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Paso Robles Joint Unified School District will not adopt or implement mandatory COVID-19 testing for asymptomatic students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Paso Robles Joint Unified School District will implement, regardless of vaccination status, personal and parental choice with respect to whether or not children should wear face coverings while at school commencing immediately; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that while the Board understands the goals of the Governor and the CDPH to stop the spread of COVID-19, the Board believes that the Governor’s K-12 mask mandate is ill-advised and in opposition to the educational and social-emotional goals of the State and the District and the well-being of the District's students and staff.

APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND SIGNED on February 22, 2022 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

APPROVE:

By:

Chris Arend, Board President

ATTEST:

By:

Chris Bausch, Board Clerk