



## **USE OF FACE COVERINGS POLICY**

**July 29, 2020**

The Board of Education of Wayne Local Schools 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, Warren County Health Department, Ohio Department of Education, and other entities (“Directing Entities”) as it relates to the protecting the health of students. If any of these Directing Entities or District Administration requires staff, students, and/or visitors to wear cloth face coverings while attending school, reporting to work at a school, or visiting a school, the District’s Administration will follow and enforce such directives.

Pursuant to *COVID-19 Health and Prevention Guidance for Ohio K-12 Schools* issued by the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Education, and the Warren County Public Schools Common Reopening Agreements all staff members, volunteers and visitors must wear face coverings.

Students shall wear appropriate face coverings with scheduled breaks as specified in the District’s Adopted Reopening Plan. Although the District and each school building has safety protocols in place, students who attend school will incur a level of risk. In addition to face coverings, Wayne Local Schools will utilize social distancing, hygiene, cleaning and safety procedures in each building in an attempt to decrease the likelihood of infection, but a certain level of inherent risk of being in a public place cannot be eliminated.

### **Face coverings:**

- Fully cover the mouth, nose, and chin; minimizing gaps;
- Not create difficulty breathing while worn; and
- Held secure through either a tie, elastic, strap, etc. to prevent slipping.

Everyone is responsible for their own face covering and all face coverings shall be in accordance with the applicable Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code, Staff Code of Conduct, and with policies of the Board. Face coverings shall not be masks designed to be worn for costume purposes, etc. All face coverings shall meet the requirements of appropriate dress as determined by Directing Entities or District Administration.

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

- Modified use for students in PK-2nd grade as recommended by the Governor;
- Anyone who has trouble breathing;
- Anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance;
- Facial coverings are in violation of documented industry standards;
- Facial coverings will significantly interfere with the learning process;
- Facial coverings 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 due to a physical, mental or developmental health condition, if wearing a face covering 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.

Wayne Local School District is required to provide written justification to the local health officials upon request explaining why a staff member is not required to wear a facial covering in the school. Therefore, if any of the above exceptions are made, the request for such exception must be submitted in writing to the individual's supervisor, and a decision on the request will be provided in writing. An individual may be required to wear a face shield or other face covering as appropriate for an accommodation of this face covering requirement.

Any school nurse or staff who care for individuals with COVID-19 symptoms must use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) in accordance with OSHA standards.

If face coverings are required, and no exception has been applied, students and/or staff who violate this policy shall be subject to progressive disciplinary action in accordance with the applicable Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code, Staff Code of Conduct, and in accordance with policies of the Board.

**ADOPTED this 29th day of July, 2020.**

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**CERTIFICATE**

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted at a meeting held on the 29th day of July 2020, together with a true and correct extract from the minutes of said meeting to the extent pertinent to consideration and adoption of said Resolution.



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Brad Conner  
Wayne Local Board of Education, President



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Patrick Dubbs  
Wayne Local Schools, Superintendent



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Ron James  
Wayne Local Schools, Treasurer