

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SAINT PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
RESOLUTION



Board File No. BF 32480

Date August 18, 2021

**ADOPTING A SAINT PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS RESOLUTION MANDATING THE
USE OF MASKS IN ALL SAINT PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS**

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 infection rate has risen during the summer of 2021 on a national, statewide, and local basis; and

WHEREAS, according to the Minnesota Department of Health, “because children under 12 years of age are not yet eligible to be vaccinated and because children age 12 to 15 are only recently eligible, there is an increased risk of COVID-19 transmission in school settings”; and

WHEREAS, all individuals currently are required to wear masks while in public transportation hubs and on all public transportation (airplanes, public buses, etc.), including school buses (both public and private); and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), recommends “universal indoor masking...for all people in a school setting (ages 2 and older), including teachers, staff, students, and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status; and

WHEREAS, it is difficult to monitor and enforce mask requirements that are not universal.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, Independent School District No. 625, Saint Paul Public Schools:

1. Mandates and requires universal indoor masking for all people in a school setting (ages 2 and older), including all teachers, staff, students, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status. For purposes of this Resolution:

a. the term “school setting” means all buildings and properties owned or leased by the School District and is not limited to only those places where students are present. It includes all administrative and operational buildings and sites as well. It also includes all school sponsored activities, regardless of location (i.e., field trips, job sites);

b. “masks” are manufactured or homemade cloth face coverings that, when properly worn, fit snugly and fully cover an individual’s nose and mouth. Scarves, ski masks, and bandannas do not constitute masks for purposes of this Resolution and are not substitutes for wearing a proper mask;

c. For infection prevention and control practices, staff delivering direct student support services (e.g., personal care that could expose staff to a student’s bodily fluids, direct care with ill students and staff, or health care procedures involving respiratory or aerosol-generating procedures) are required to wear both a cloth mask as described above and a medical/surgical grade disposable mask.

2. Consistent with CDC and MDH guidance, this mandate does not apply to:

a. Individuals who cannot wear a mask or cannot safely wear a mask because of a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.;

b. Individuals for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to workplace health, safety, or job duty as determined by the relevant workplace safety guidelines or federal regulations;

c. Individuals who are actively struggling to breathe, are unconscious, or are unable to remove a mask without help;

d. Individuals in certain situations (e.g., swimming or other activities that will soak or submerge a face covering in water) where masks are unsafe.

3. Consistent with prior directives from the State of Minnesota:

a. Staff may remove masks when working alone, including when alone in an office, classroom, vehicle, cubicle with walls at least face level when social distancing is maintained, or other enclosed work area;

b. Staff, students, and other persons present indoors in a school setting may temporarily remove masks in the following situations:

i. When actively engaged in an athletic game, scrimmage, or competition subject to any rules, regulations, requirements, or guidance issued by the Minnesota State High School League for activities under its administration;

ii. When eating or drinking;

iii. During performances involving singing, acting, public speaking, or playing musical instruments that make wearing a mask difficult or impracticable;

iv. In response to requests to verify an identity for lawful purposes;

v. When communicating with an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing or has a disability, medical condition, or mental health condition that makes communication with that individual while wearing a face covering difficult;

vi. While receiving a service—including nursing, medical, or personal care services—that cannot be performed or would be difficult to perform when the individual receiving the service is wearing a mask.

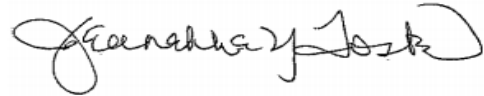
4. The District will take corrective action for any violation of this policy. Such corrective action will be consistent with the law and regulations, District policies and handbooks, and any relevant collective bargaining agreements.

5. The Board of Education will review this resolution as necessary in light of changes to case rates, guidance from the CDC, guidance from the MDH and/or MDE, and any other applicable authorities and, minimally, prior to the start of each academic quarter (November 13, January 31, April 11).

6. This Resolution becomes effective as of 8:00am, Wednesday, August 18, 2021.

Adopted August 17, 2021

Chair	<u>yes</u>
Vice Chair	<u>yes</u>
Clerk	<u>yes</u>
Treasurer	<u>yes</u>
Director	<u>yes</u>
Director	<u>yes</u>
Director	<u>yes</u>



CHAIR Board of Education



CLERK Board of Education