

Dear BEA Community:

At their meeting last night, the Board of Education adopted the Safety Plan for the 2021-2022 school year. For those of you who may have read the draft, the one item that was removed was that students had to bring in pre-packaged, single-serve snacks for parties. Everything else remained the same.

Today, the governor came out publicly and issued a statement that he would not require students or staff to wear masks while at school. This is in line with our Safety Plan.

As we are about to enter August, we will likely get clarification on quarantining, contact tracing, and other items that may directly impact students and staff that are unvaccinated. Once we have that information, I will share it with you.

The following are some key points of the Safety Plan along with a few other items of interest:

1. Masks will not be required to be worn at school or school activities or events unless mandated by the state/federal government.
2. Under a Federal Order from January 2021, anyone riding in public transportation must wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status. This includes school buses and vans.
3. Emphasis on helping students with their academic and social emotional needs. Additional staff have been hired to help with this using ESSER funding.
4. Classrooms will be limited to 28 students or less
5. Interns and Student Teachers will be required to be vaccinated in order to work with students in the schools.
6. No vaccinations will be required of any groups/individuals.
7. The use of district facilities by outside groups will be constantly monitored and updated based on the latest guidance/requirements from the CDC or DOH.
8. Students/Staff who are close contacts to a positive COVID case will still need to quarantine based on CDC and DOH guidelines.
9. Students will need to bring their own water bottles as drinking fountains will no longer be used.
10. Teachers/staff will not be required to clean between classes but are encouraged to clean high touch spots in their classrooms (ex: door handles).
11. Contact tracing will continue by school staff working with the DOH.

Additional Items:

-Educational options for 2021-22 include: In-person learning, Cyber learning, or Online learning (this will be a short-term placement for COVID reasons only). More specifics of the requirements for students to be eligible for temporary Online learning will be brought before the Board for approval on August 12. Full-time Online learning/Livestreaming and the A/B Day options are eliminated for the 2021-22 school year.

-The state is working on a testing program whereby schools could test students who are close contacts for COVID immediately and receive the results in 15 minutes. Students who are negative would not have to quarantine. We know very little about this. More information will be forthcoming. Anyone vaccinated, who is a close contact, will not be required to quarantine (Proof of vaccination will be required).