

FAYETTEVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICIES

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POLICY 1.19 ON WEARING MASKS AND FACE COVERINGS

The Board of Directors is mindful of the evolving need for emergency measures to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. In consideration of the recommendations issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Arkansas Department of Health, and the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Board is adopting this emergency policy for all students, employees and visitors of Fayetteville Public Schools.

STUDENTS

Until further action of the Board, all students in kindergarten through the 12th grade shall be required to wear a mask or face covering (a) while attending school or a school function in any school building, facility or other area of a school campus, and (b) when riding in school-provided transportation. All masks and face coverings must cover the nose and mouth of the student. This policy applies to students waiting outside school buildings before and after school, and to students waiting at bus stops. Students shall wear masks and face coverings at all times except for the following:

- Students may remove masks and face coverings for eating or drinking;
- Students may remove masks and face coverings when appropriate social distancing measures are in place as determined by a teacher or school administrator;
- Students may be exempted from this policy by the school principal due to a documented medical condition of the student;
- Students may remove masks and face coverings on a case-by-case basis for specific instructional needs and other activities, as determined by a teacher, in which case the teacher will utilize appropriate social distancing measures; or
- Students may be exempted from this policy due to special behavioral or individualized needs as determined by the Director of Special Services or the Director of Student Services.

Students who refuse to wear a mask or face covering at school or at a school function under this policy shall be required to leave the school campus consistent with Board Policy 5.25 on student dress. Students who refuse to wear a mask or face covering on a school bus shall be subject to Board Policy 5.19 on student conduct while riding a bus.

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EMPLOYEES

Until further action of the Board, all employees of Fayetteville Public Schools shall be required to wear a mask or face covering while working or attending a school function in any school building, facility or other area of a school campus. All masks and face coverings must cover the nose and mouth of the employee. Employees shall wear masks and face coverings at all times except for the following:

- Employees may remove masks and face coverings for eating and drinking;
- Employees may remove masks and face coverings when appropriate social distancing measures are in place;
- Employees may be exempted from this policy by the school principal or the Superintendent of Schools due to a documented medical condition of the employee; or
- Employees may remove masks and face coverings on a case-by-case basis for specific instructional needs and other activities, as determined by a teacher, in which case the teacher will utilize appropriate social distancing measures.

Employees who refuse to wear a mask or face covering at school or at a school function under this policy shall be subject to Board Policy 4119 and state laws regarding the evaluation of employee contracts.

VISITORS

Until further action of the Board, all visitors to Fayetteville Public Schools shall be required to wear a mask or face covering while present in any school building, facility or other area of a school campus.