

Student Face Covering Requirement

(AMENDED) What are the student face mask requirements for in-person learning?

Masks are generally required for all students and staff attending in person learning. Face shields may only be used in connection with an approved mask-wearing exemption.

(NEW) Must people experiencing an immediate health challenge wear a mask?

Masks may be removed on a short-term basis when a person experiences shortness of breath, nausea, asphyxiation, or some other health-related experience that reasonably necessitates the removal of a mask.

What is the appropriate way to wear a face mask?

A face mask must cover the nose and mouth. Face mask are not allowed to be worn under the nose or mouth.



(NEW) What types of Masks or Face Coverings are not allowed by SCCPSS and not recommended by the CDC?

- Masks made from loosely woven fabric or that are knitted, i.e., fabrics that let light pass through
- Mask with exhalation valves or vents (including those with 2.5PM or other replacement filters)
- Masks that do not fit properly (large gaps, too loose or too tight)
- Masks made from materials that are hard to breathe through (such as plastic or leather)

(NEW) Face shields are NOT allowed as substitute for a face mask unless approved as needed to meet the specific educational need of a student in accordance with as IDEA or Section 504 plan or amendment.

(NEW) Neck fleeces, also called gaiter masks are **NOT** allowed. Per the Health Department, wearing a fleece mask or gaiter results in a higher number of respiratory droplets because the material breaks down larger droplets into smaller particles that are more easily carried away with air.

(AMENDED) Will exemptions be approved for not wearing a face mask?

A student may be considered for an exemption, if a treating physician provides written documentation stating the medical reason a student cannot wear a mask.

Students with disabilities may be exempted in accordance with accommodations established through individualized educational plans (IEPs and 504). Such exemptions should generally be made through IEP and 504 team meetings. Disability-based exemptions may be implemented prior to conducting an IEP or 504 meeting with the special approval of the District's 504 Coordinator using this [process](#) for a particular student or through the application of a categorical policy allowance (e.g. [“Mask Wearing Accommodation: Mask-Wearing Flexibility for Special Student Populations”](#)).

What are the face mask requirements?

A face mask must cover the mouth and nose. Mesh masks or masks with cut out areas are not acceptable. The wearing of bandanas or gaiters will not be allowed nor will face masks with inappropriate imagery, wording, etc. will not be permitted.

Will the District provide face masks?

Parents are required to provide their student(s) with face masks. A temporary face mask will be provided if a student arrives at school without a mask for that day. After the third occurrence, students may be evaluated for transition to virtual learning.

Is it permissible for a student to refuse to wear a face mask?

It's important that parents partner with the District to enforce and educate students on the importance of wearing face masks. Noncompliant students will be transitioned back to the virtual learning environment for the safety of all students.

Are face masks required on school buses or sporting events?

Students are required to wear masks on school buses. If a student is attending an after-school event on school property, they will be required to wear a face mask.

(NEW) Are face masks required on school buses or sporting events?

Students are required to wear masks on school buses. If a student is attending an after-school event on school property, they will be required to wear a face mask. Exceptions may be granted based on health needs or disability-related accommodations.

Are students required to wear face masks during recess?

If students maintain a social distance of 6 feet while on the playground, they will not be required to wear a face mask.

What is the best way to handle a face mask?

Masks should be placed in a clean receptacle when not being worn. (ex: bag labeled with child's name)