

Clarifying language on masks

[BAY DISTRICT SCHOOLS · WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2020 · 2 MINUTES](#)

MASK LANGUAGE

Opening school in the traditional setting during our current situation will require an ongoing partnership between teachers, administrators, parents and students. We know that there is no “one-size-fits-all” solution for any of this but we also know that, working together, we can do what’s best for our students and staff.

The School Board voted on Tuesday to follow the current CDC guidelines which recommend the use of masks for students and staff **when social distancing is not possible**. To facilitate a safe, productive learning environment for all students while encouraging mask wearing where possible, BDS will:

1. Assist teachers and schools with moving all non-essential furniture out of the classrooms to add additional space between desks. When social distancing is an option in the classroom, based upon the professional judgement of the teacher, masks will not be required.
2. Encourage teachers to arrange desks separately so that students are not facing each other.
3. Re-organize, as much as possible, school opening and closing procedures to allow for maximum social distancing.
4. Require masks be worn by all students who ride a bus to or from school.

All visitors to our campuses (including parents and staff members) will be required to wear masks upon arrival.

Bay District School employees are passionate, dedicated educational professionals and we know that they will do their best to encourage, support and help students adjust to this new “normal” while adjusting to it themselves as well. Please note that EXTREME flexibility will be shown in pre-kindergarten through second grade as we know many of our younger students will struggle with this requirement and will require additional help,

support and compassion. Parents of students who have a medical exemption for wearing a mask, or for whom mask wearing is not recommended, should provide documentation of that to the school principal. Documentation can be in the form of a note/letter from a physician or any other licensed medical professionals/special services therapist who treats the child.

We know that our parents/guardians best understand the individual needs of their students and so we are asking them to provide an appropriate mask or cloth face covering for each student. The district will provide a face mask for students in case of emergency.

We appreciate the opportunity to continue to be your educational partner during this challenge and we look forward to welcoming students and staff back to school.