



A Beacon for Learning and Leading

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Board of Education
Clark Jenkins, Chair
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Katie Statler

Press Release

IMMEDIATE

Carteret County Board of Education

August 18, 2021

Temporary back to school mask requirements.

CARTERET COUNTY, N.C. -- On Wednesday, August 18th the Carteret County Board of Education voted to require mandatory face covering wearing for all students and staff beginning Thursday, August 19, 2021. This decision will be reviewed at the September 7th monthly board meeting.

While we know that there are many in our community that have very strong views regarding the practices and procedures associated with COVID-19 in our schools, please know that the Carteret County Public School System remains focused on keeping our students safely in school and will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that we provide a worthy educational experience for all students.

All students and staff will be required to wear a face covering while inside all of our public schools and while riding our buses. Students are not required to wear a face covering while participating in outside activities such as outside PE and recess.

For students that participate in extracurricular activities outside of the regularly scheduled school day, the following guidelines will be followed:

- For outdoor activities, face coverings are not required to be worn by student participants or spectators.
- For indoor activities, students actively engaged during the sporting event or activity are not required to wear a face covering. Students that are not actively participating, such as student athletes that are not playing at that time are required to wear a face covering. In addition, spectators at these indoor activities are required to wear a face covering.

According to the StrongSchoolsNC Toolkit, exceptions to the required face covering mandate include people who:

- Should not wear a face covering due to any medical or behavioral condition or disability (including, but not limited to, any person who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious or incapacitated, or is otherwise unable to put on or remove the face covering without assistance);
- Is under two (2) years of age;
- Is actively eating or drinking; • Is seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing-impaired in a way that requires the mouth to be visible;
- Is giving a speech for a broadcast or to an audience;

MISSION

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- Is working at home or is in a personal vehicle;
- Is temporarily removing his or her face covering to secure government or medical services or for identification purposes;
- Would be at risk from wearing a face covering at work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulations or workplace safety guidelines;
- Has found that his or her face covering is impeding visibility to operate equipment or a vehicle; Is a child whose parent, guardian, or responsible person has been unable to place the Face Covering safely on the child's face.

Carteret County Public Schools has created a face covering exemption form that must be completed by a parent/guardian to request a waiver to this face covering mandate. That form will be available on our website shortly or available at any public school. The form should be completed and submitted to the student's school as soon as possible.

The Carteret County Public Schools faculty and staff are committed to safeguarding the health and wellness of our students and will continue to work hard to meet students' needs. The school system community has demonstrated this commitment and work ethic through hurricanes and through the pandemic to date and will continue to do so. In partnership with our parents, community, and business partners, we have been, we are, and we will remain #CarteretStrong!

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