



Update on School Masking

February 23, 2022

Dear Wheatland Elementary School District Families, Students and Staff:

The Wheatland Elementary School District is announcing a significant change to student and staff masking protocols effective next Monday, February 28, 2022.

Effective Monday, February 28, 2022, student and staff masking will become a choice at each of our school sites and in our Preschool and Afterschool Programs. We continue to highly recommend the use of masks while indoors at school, but we need to use all of our energy to educate the students and not continue to be focused on masking or the lack of masking.

Students and staff will have the option to pick up a mask in any classroom and the main office at the sites. Staff will not be spending any more time asking students to wear the masks, but again we highly encourage that they do continue to wear them until the mandate has expired.

WSD, along with school districts across the state, have been caught in the middle of a very difficult and progressively escalating situation where we acknowledge our obligation to comply with State and California Department of Public Health mandates. The district acknowledges its obligation to comply with state law and executive orders. We are hopeful that the state will end the mandate when the Governor makes his announcement on Monday, however, we need to do what we think is best for our school community. We will continue to make appropriate attempts to comply with state law, while we will also ensure that our schools continue to be places that support students, their learning and their mental health.

Implementation of this change will require flexibility and understanding by all of us. Many of our staff and students have underlying health challenges that require the district to provide ongoing measures to protect their health and safety. In some cases, and in specified areas of our campuses, the district may need to enforce masking requirements more stringently.

As a school community, we must remember that all of us possess diverse viewpoints and concerns regarding the pandemic. Understanding and empathy for each other continues to be an important priority if we are to successfully navigate these challenges together. This continues to be a very challenging time for public education. We ask for your continued patience as we navigate our way forward. Thank you for your continued support for WSD, its schools and staff.

Please contact your school sites for additional information.

Sincerely,

Craig M. Guensler

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Superintendent

Wheatland School District

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