

Resolution to Respond to Pandemic Mitigation Measures

WHEREAS, in December 2019, a novel coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19 was first detected in the United States, causing outbreaks of the disease, prompting the Governor of Illinois to declare an ongoing gubernatorial disaster first effective in March 2020; and for the start of the 2021-2022 School Year;

WHEREAS, Illinois has fully adopted for all K-12 public and nonpublic schools CDC guidelines that state: "Masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated. Consistent and correct mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained.";

WHEREAS, schools should work with the Oak Park Department of Public Health officials to determine the prevention strategies needed in their area by monitoring levels of community transmission (i.e., low, moderate, substantial, or high) and local vaccine coverage, and use of screening testing to detect cases in K-12 schools;

WHEREAS, a school in a community with substantial or high transmission, with a low teacher, staff, or student vaccination rate, and without a screening testing program should continue to require masks for people who are not fully vaccinated.

WHEREAS, schools that remove any of the prevention strategies based on local conditions should remove them one at a time and monitor closely (with adequate testing through the school and/or community) for any increases in COVID-19 cases;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education (Board) of Oak Park Elementary School District 97, Cook County, Illinois (School District) is the governing body of a public elementary school district organized, existing, and operating pursuant to the Illinois *School Code* (105 ILCS 5/1, *et seq.*); and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the ongoing need to promptly respond to conditional factors that may jeopardize the health and safety of students and staff as it relates to the current COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, Section 10-16.7 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/10-16.7) requires school boards to direct, through policy, the superintendent in his or her charge of the administration of the school district;

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 10-16.7 of the *School Code*, the Board has the discretion and the ability to authorize the Superintendent to increase mitigation measures, including those related to mask requirements for students and staff, based upon contextual factors that suggest such additional mitigation is necessary to protect the health and safety of students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of Oak Park School District 97, Cook County, Illinois, as follows:

1. **Authorization to Develop and Implement Plans.** The Superintendent is authorized to develop and implement COVID-19 mitigation measures in response to the transmission of COVID-19 during the 2021-2022 school year.
 - a. **Provision of Information to Board.** The Superintendent will periodically inform the Board of Education regarding the monitoring of contextual factors guiding decisions and of the impact on amendments related to the implementation of the existing COVID-19 mitigation plan;
 - b. **Considerations for Planning.** In amending the COVID-19 mitigation plan and procedures, the Superintendent should consider the following non-exhaustive list of factors:
 - COVID-19 outbreaks, cases in schools or rising positivity rates
 - Level of community and school transmission
 - Community-wide vaccination coverage
 - Ability to implement screening and/or testing of unvaccinated students and staff
 - Guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education; Illinois Department of Public Health and/or the Center for Disease Control and the Oak Park Department of Public Health.
 - d. **Consideration of Information; Assistance.** In developing the plans and procedures, the Superintendent may seek information, input, and assistance of such persons and constituencies as the Superintendent deems necessary, and in such form or format as determined in the discretion of the Superintendent.
2. **Expiration of Authority.** The authority granted by this Resolution shall expire at the completion of the last day of the school year in 2021-2022, unless earlier modified or terminated by the Board of Education.

AYES: _____

NAYS: _____

ABSENT: _____

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF Oak Park District 97, Oak Park,
ILLINOIS**

President

ATTEST: _____
Secretary