



**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE DENTON INDEPENDENT  
SCHOOL DISTRICT REGARDING THE DISTRICT RESPONSE TO THE  
CONTINUED COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**WHEREAS**, the Denton Independent School District Board of Trustees (Board) recognizes that officials in Denton County and the United States declared an emergency regarding the potential spread of coronavirus/COVID-19 (hereafter “COVID-19”) and that the territory included in Denton Independent School District is within the areas where an emergency had been declared;

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas declared a statewide emergency, and, later that same day, the President of the United States declared a national emergency regarding COVID-19;

**WHEREAS**, throughout the pandemic, the Governor of the State of Texas issued a series of executive orders aimed at protecting the health and safety of Texans including Executive Order GA-29, regarding the use of face coverings to control the spread of COVID-19;

**WHEREAS**, on March 2, 2021, the Governor of the State of Texas issued an executive order in accordance with guidance from medical advisors to supersede the previously issued orders, including GA-29, to be effective on March 10, 2021, which lifted the state-imposed requirement to wear a face covering but continued to direct that local school officials should follow guidance from the Texas Education Agency, and that public schools may operate as provided by, and under the minimum standard health protocols found in, guidance issued by the Texas Education Agency;

**WHEREAS**, the updated Texas Education Agency guidance issued March 3, 2021, maintains the requirement for Texas public schools to require face coverings for all students, staffs and visitors to public school buildings;

**WHEREAS**, the Denton ISD’s current Health/Safety Protocols have been developed with guidance from local officials, including Denton County Health Services, and are based on protocols from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and recommendations from the Texas Education Agency (TEA);

**WHEREAS**, since the beginning of the 2020-21 school year, Denton ISD’s COVID-19 mitigation procedures have allowed schools to remain open and have minimized risks to students and staff;

**WHEREAS**, Denton ISD, alongside other Denton County school districts, has experienced higher than average staff and student absenteeism and have over 8,000 students still attending school virtually due to COVID-19;

**WHEREAS**, the Board has a substantial public interest in protecting the health and safety of its students, staff, and community and therefore desires to ensure that the school district and community are continuing to the fullest extent possible to protect the health and safety of students, staff, and community in light of COVID-19;

**WHEREAS**, on December 15, 2020, the Board passed a resolution requesting that the Governor of Texas include Texas Public School District personnel to be designated Non-Healthcare Frontline Workers and

be given vaccine priority following healthcare and first responders in the statewide administration of the COVID-19 vaccine;

**WHEREAS**, on March 4, 2021, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services directed states to expand vaccine eligibility to include people who work in school and childcare operations;

**WHEREAS**, the Board desires to be able to finish the 2020-2021 school year with continued in-person learning, and seeks to retain its employees, reduce turnover, maintain equitable treatment of employees, decrease medical claims and absenteeism, increase morale, help employees focus on work-related matters while at work, encourage the safety of all employees and their children and family members;

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** the Board of Trustees of the Denton Independent School District finds a substantial public purpose exists in continuing to protect the health and safety of its students, staff, and community and therefore in ensuring that the school district and community are prepared to the fullest extent possible to protect the health and safety of students, staff, and community in light of COVID-19.

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the Denton ISD will continue to require face coverings for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year, and will continue to seek direction from and will follow procedures given by the Center for Disease Control and Denton County Health Services to create guidelines regarding the wearing of facial coverings, proper social distancing, and other methods of protecting the health and safety of students, staff, and community.

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** this resolution shall remain in effect until revoked by the Board of Trustees.

**PRESENTED** and passed this March 23, 2021, by a vote of \_\_\_\_ Ayes and \_\_\_\_ Nays by the Board of Trustees of the Denton ISD.

**Denton ISD Board of Trustees**

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