



Town of Littleton School Committee

33 Shattuck St. * P.O. Box 1486 * Littleton, MA 01460-4486 *
Phone: (978) 540-2500 * Fax: (978) 486-9581 * Website: www.littletonps.org

JUSTIN MCCARTHY, Vice Chair
BRAD AUSTIN, Member

MATTHEW HUNT, Chair

TIMALYN RASSIAS, Secretary
JEN GOLD, Member

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

August 11, 2021

7:00 p.m.

NO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Aug 11, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: School Committee August 11, 2021

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://littletonma.zoom.us/j/82474926397?pwd=SW42U08vZE9UczV4U0xYdFpzVExDdz09>

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Or One tap mobile :

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**** *A G E N D A* ****

Our mission is to foster a community of learners who strive for excellence and prepare each student to be a successful, contributing citizen in a global society.

7:00 I. ORGANIZATION

1. Call to Order
2. Consent Agenda Minutes – June 17, 2021
-Oath to Bills - and Payroll

7:10 II. FINCOM SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE INTERVIEW/APPOINTMENT

The School Committee will interview candidate Al Rasmus to fill the FinCom School Representative Seat for a 3 year term ending May 2024. Motion to Appoint Al Rasmus as the FinCom School Representative from August 8, 2021 thru May 2024.

It is the policy of the Littleton Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, gender, religion, national origin, color, homelessness, sexual orientation, gender identity age or disability in its educational programs, services, activities or employment practices. Further information may be obtained by contacting Lyn Snow,, District Equity Coordinator at 978-540-2500, lsnow@littletonps.org or 33 Shattuck Street, P.O. Box 1486, Littleton, MA 01460.

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7:20 III. INTERESTED CITIZENS

7:25. IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. COVID-19 Health Metrics Update: Katrina Wilcox Hagberg
2. Presentation on DESE/DPH and CDC recommendations: *Superintendent Kelly Clenchy will give an update on DESE/DPH and CDC recommendation.*
3. Fall Reopening Protocols: The SC will have a discussion regarding COVID 19 updates specific to mask-wearing and other mitigation strategies that should be considered prior to starting the new school year.

9:00 V. INTERESTED CITIZENS

9:20 VI. ADJOURNMENT/EXECUTIVE SESSION

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SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES June 17, 2021 7:00PM

PRESENT: Matthew Hunt
Brad Austin
Justin McCarthy
Timalyn Rassias
Jen Gold

ALSO PRESENT: Kelly Clenchy
Steve Mark
Dorothy Mulone
Bettina Corrow

NOT PRESENT:

CALL TO ORDER

Matthew Hunt called the meeting to order at 7:04p.m.

On a motion by Timalyn Rassias and seconded by Jen Gold the School Committee returned to Executive session for contract negotiation with the intent to continue Open Session after close of Executive session. (AYE: Unanimous). Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote: Matthew Hunt, AYE; Brad Austin, AYE; Justin McCarthy, AYE; Jen Gold, AYE; and Timalyn Rassias, AYE.

On a motion by Timalyn Rassias and seconded by Jen Gold it was voted to approve the June 3rd, 2021, consent agenda as presented. (AYE: Unanimous). Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote: Matthew Hunt, AYE; Brad Austin, AYE; Justin McCarthy, AYE; Jen Gold, AYE; and Timalyn Rassias, AYE.

INTERESTED CITIZENS

None

RECOGNITION

1. Superintendent Clenchy recognized the LHS up and coming seniors Madison Shufrin and Stella Austin as the School Committee Student Representatives for the 2021-2022 school year.

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2. Superintendent Clenchy recognized the Russell Street Student Maddie Colson who received an award at the Annual Town Meeting for her Artwork that had been chosen for the cover of the 2020 Town Report.
3. Superintendent Clenchy recognized the 2020-2021 retirees from Littleton Public Schools. A reception was held prior to the School Committee meeting.
4. Superintendent Clenchy recognized the robotic team, which has been around for 5 years, and this year ranked 11th globally.
5. Superintendent Clenchy thanked the drama team and Adam DeCoste for their movie premiere of Romeo & Juliet.
6. John Harrington recognized the boy's baseball team for their effort. He also congratulated the girl's softball team for winning the CMass championship game.
7. Michelle Kane recognized Claire Wodsinski for stepping up in such a huge way throughout this school year.
8. Cheryl Temple recognized the grade level teachers for putting together the picnic days for the different grades to pull off some fun days to end the school year.
9. Jason Everhart recognized the Grade 8 students. They have missed out on so much this past school year, but he wanted to wish them the very best as they move on to the high school or to Nashoba Technology High School.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **2021-2022 School Calendar:** Superintendent Kelly Clenchy asked the School Committee for approval to change the date of the recognized Holiday Yom Kippur from September 15, 2021, to September 16, 2021, on the recently approved 2021-2022 School Calendar.

On a motion by Jen Gold and seconded by Brad Austin it was voted to approve the 2021-2022 School Calendar as presented with a change to the Yom Kippur Holiday date.

(AYE: Unanimous). Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote: Matthew Hunt, AYE; Brad Austin, AYE; Justin McCarthy, AYE; Jen Gold, AYE; and Timalyn Rassias, AYE.

2. **2021-2022 School Committee Calendar:** School Committee to approve the change of date on the 2021-2011 School Committee Calendar for the August retreat.

On a motion by Brad Austin and seconded by Jen Gold it was voted to approve the 2021-2022 School Committee Calendar as presented with a change to the August retreat to Aug. 12-13, 2021.

(AYE: Unanimous). Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote: Matthew Hunt, AYE; Brad Austin, AYE; Justin McCarthy, AYE; Jen Gold, AYE; and Timalyn Rassias, AYE.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **MASC/MASS Joint Conference 2021:** Superintendent Clenchy gave a brief overview of the 2021 MASC/MASS conference to be held on November 3-6, 2021. Early Registration July 2021 for all SC members interested in attending. He encouraged the school committee members to attend if they have the opportunity.
2. **LEA MOA:** School Committee voted on the proposed MOA that encompasses the salary increase for the 2021-2022 school year.

On a motion by Matthew Hunt and seconded by Brad Austin it was voted to approve the MOA salary increase for the 2021-2022 school year. (AYE: Unanimous). Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote: Matthew Hunt, AYE; Brad Austin, AYE; Justin McCarthy, AYE; Jen Gold, AYE; and Timalyn Rassias, AYE.

PRESENTATION

1. **Handbook Changes:** No requests for Handbook updates for the 2021-2022 school year.
2. **School Start Times:** Matthew Hunt gave a brief overview of the discussion that has been going on about school start times and it has been determined this is something that they would like to pursue further. Brad Austin presented the items that have been discussed prior to this meeting. They will be gathering data from other school districts who have been through this process already. Over the summer months they will be creating a log with information and data so a conversation can begin on this topic. We should be able to make a decision in September or October of this coming fall.

Jen Gold – When do we need to make the decision to have this change take effect in Sept. 2022?

Kelly Clenchy – We would need a decision to be made by November of 2021. But please remember we need to gather information from all stakeholders, especially the students. It might be a good idea to bring in a consultant once we move forward to show that we are getting outside consulting.

Matthew Hunt encouraged the community to be engaged in this topic and to reach out to the school committee members if any would like to participate. More information will be going out in August.
3. **High School Bell Schedule 2021-2022:** Assistant Principal Keith Comeau presented the 2021-2022 bell schedule. An overview of the entire presentation was included in the packet.

What have we learned from this year?

If Nothing Else..

☐ Pandemic Education has forced us all to reconsider/reevaluate:

- What we do
- How we do it
- Why we do it

☐ Pandemic Education has brought further to the foreground:

- Social/Emotional Health
- Importance of Connections
- School Culture/Climate

Reflecting on Bell Schedule

☐ October 2015 - Presentation of Bell Schedule proposals

☐ Student Focus Groups

- Stress and Academic Workload

☐ Hybrid Model Reflections

- What is working well / needs improvement

☐ Student and Staff Survey

124 ○ Specific to Bell Schedule

125 □ Student Focus Group

126 □ Faculty-Led PD

127 ○ 4 meetings

128 **What We Learned**

129 □ On the whole, respondents liked longer blocks

130 ○ Allows for deeper dives into curriculum

131 ○ But, current blocks are too long

132 □ Large percentage of students indicated that having fewer classes helped

133 ○ Feel less rushed; more manageable; less stressed; more time to absorb material

134 □ Concern about lack of daily exposure to material

135 ○ Increased difficulty to monitor student work completion as efficiently

136 □ Students are looking for more opportunities to connect with teachers

137 ○ Looking to the return of daily advisory

138 **Essential Question**

139 In order to meet the needs of ALL students, how can we fit ALL of the following supports in to the school
140 day:

141 RTI / SST

142 Re-learning

143 Mentoring

144 Advisory

145 Enrichment

146 Student Stress and Workload

147 Social & Emotional Support

148 **If I am a student, how would I..**

149 • Schedule a make-up test?

150 • Get extra help from a teacher?

151 • Meet with my classmates about a group project?

152 • Get a head start on my homework?

153 • Have choice and voice in how I want to use my time?

154 • Build connections to adults that I feel a connection to?

155

156 **What if that same student...**

157 • doesn't have a study hall?

158 • couldn't come after school?

159 • wasn't able to find a common time with their teacher?

160 • doesn't have the skills/confidence to ask?

161 **Previous Schedule (7/1)**

162 • 5-minute advisory

163 • 49 minutes classes

164 • 996.9 hours

165 • 14 half days $\square 194 = 2716$ minutes

166 • 4 final days $\square 180 = 720$ minutes

167 • 162 regular days $\square 348 = 56,376$ minutes

168 **Current Schedule**

169 • 35-minute advisory (1 x week)

170 • 100 minutes classes; 50-minute E mod; 43/46 minutes on Wednesdays

171 • 1008.4 hours

172 • 11 half days Wednesdays $\square 192 = 2112$ minutes

173 • 3 half day block schedule - 196 = 588 minutes

174 • 27 Wednesdays $\square 339 = 9153$ minutes

175 • 139 modified block days $\square 350 = 48,650$ minutes

176 **Flex Schedule**

177 • 35-minute Flex Block

178 • 76 minutes classes (+ 1 92-minute class)

179 • 1027.4 hours

180 • 14 half days block schedule $\square 196 = 2716$ minutes

181 • 166 regular days $\square 355 = 58,930$ minutes

182

Pros to Flex Block Schedule

- Fewer classes per day
- Longer class blocks
- 25-minute lunch
- Rotation of Classes
- Helps to address student stress / workload concerns.
- Enhances Advisory Program
- Close to 30 additional hours of Time on Learning
- Daily Flex block provides:
 - Built-in structure for Advisory activities, Class meetings, etc.
 - Equitable opportunities for all students to access support

Matthew Hunt mentioned that with the pandemic it was a perfect time to look and change the bell schedule.

Brad Austin – I think the students will really benefit with these changes. This will give all students a better chance to connect with their teachers and their peers and get support when needed.

INTERESTED CITIZENS

None

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. PMBC: None

2. Budget Subcommittee: Thanked the Town for their support.

3. Safety and Security: None

4. Reading of Policy: Second Reading of Policy

BA – SCHOOL COMMITTEE OPERATION GOALS

BB – SCHOOL COMMITTEE LEGAL STATUS

BBA – SCHOOL COMMITTEE POWERS AND DUTIES

On a motion by Timalyn Rassias, and seconded by Jen Gold, it was voted to accept the second reading of Policy BA, BB, and BBA as presented. (AYE: Unanimous). Roll Call Vote: Matthew Hunt, AYE; Brad Austin, AYE; Justin McCarthy, AYE; Timalyn Rassias, AYE; and Jen Gold, AYE

5. SEPAC: SEPAC had a meeting on Tuesday. They had a question on the ESSR 3 Funds.

Kelly Clenchy – The application date is sometime in October, but we want to make sure we solicit as much information before we move forward with this.

Brad Austin thanked the Administration, the teachers, students, and families for a school year well done.

225 **ADJOURNMENT**

226 On a motion by Justin McCarthy and seconded by Jen Gold it was voted to adjourn at 8:33PM. Roll Call
227 Vote: Matthew Hunt, AYE; Brad Austin, AYE; Justin McCarthy, AYE; Timalyn Rassias, AYE; and Jen Gold,
228 AYE.

229
230 **NEXT MEETING DATE**
231 **August 12nd and August 13rd, 2021**
232 **Summer Retreat**
233

234
235 **DOCUMENTS AS PART OF MEETING**

236 2021-2022 School Calendar
237 2021-2022 School Committee Calendar
238 MASC/MASS Joint conference
239 LHS Bell Schedule
240 Policy BA, BB, BBA

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE SEEKS INTERESTED CITIZENS TO
FINANCE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT**

The Littleton School Committee is seeking an interested citizen to fulfill a three-year term on the Littleton Finance Committee, expiring in May 2024. Kindly forward a letter of interest and a resume which details your qualifications by May 27, 2021.

Littleton School committee
c/o Chairperson
P.O. Box 1486
33 Shattuck Street
Littleton, MA 01460

Interviews of interested candidates will be scheduled. This process will follow procedures as set forth in the Town of Littleton code and School Committee Policy.

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July 7, 2021

Dr. Kelly Clenchy & Matt Hunt

I served on FINCOM several years ago as the School Committee's appointee. I had to step down because a new role with my employer required me to spend a significant amount of time in Connecticut and would prevent me from attending FINCOM or other town meetings.

I just heard that there may be an opening on FINCOM that you are looking to fill. I am interested in the position and attached is my resume. My work schedule is much more flexible and I have time to serve. Please let me know if you would like to discuss my background.

Al Rasmus

A L V I N R A S M U S , J R . C P A , M B A
139 FOSTER STREET, LITTLETON, MASSACHUSETTS 01460
(978) 394-9297 | alvinrasmus@yahoo.com

P R O F E S S I O N A L P R O F I L E

- Executive with effective communication skills and experience facilitating across international business lines to build, turn around and operate large organizations and small business startups.
- Created strategic relationships with organization leaders to assess risk, understand key business processes and develop audit and SOX functions deemed "Best in Class".
- Highly analytical decision maker who successfully leverages strategy, finance, and technology to deliver enterprise-wide and small-scale solutions resulting in sales, operational improvements, and cost savings.

P R O F E S S I O N A L E X P E R I E N C E

DELPHI TECHNOLOGY INC.

2013-Present

Leading provider of Licensed and SaaS Solutions for Property & Casualty and Professional Liability Insurance carriers.

SVP, Finance, Planning & Administration

- Responsible for leading all administrative functions in the US and Shanghai including finance, accounting, IT, Sales, HR, legal, facilities/leasing, banking, and insurance.
- Developed all required internal process documentation and managed all internal activities required by our external auditors to complete our annual financial audit, 401K audit and SOC 1 & 2 control assessments.
- Led effort to formalize our cross-functional planning process, provided visibility into challenges and opportunities facing the organization and developed actions to maximize revenue, cost savings and operational efficiencies.
- Doubled revenue and tripled net income growth.
- Developed financial models to project and analyze in-house and competitor product performance, identify market opportunities and drive transformation to launch a new Property & Casualty product.
- Developed a resource utilization plan including future demand and current resources to help identify new/eliminated positions based on technical needs in the organization and outdated technical skills.
- Renegotiated office leases in Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Shanghai to receive significant improvements and free rent from landlords.
- Developed and executed a strategy to maximize our value and secured an investor who paid a higher than average multiple.

KIDDE-FENWAL INC.

2011-2013

UTC's Global Fire Suppression Division with \$500 million in annual revenues and 500 worldwide employees.

Controller

- Planned, organized, controlled, and consolidated all accounting, financial reporting, and internal control activities including audits, SOX & OPEX efficiency projects in the US, China, Denmark, Mexico, and UK.
- Transformed the accounting organization and introduced a new shared service model to reduce the cost of managing our financial information in accordance with US GAAP and local reporting requirements. The new organization increased efficiencies by eliminating redundancies and providing centralized US support to the operations.
- Created a new model working with Sales, Marketing and Operations to align sales order forecasting, inventory, and cash management. Met our on-time delivery requirements and realized inventory and cash flow opportunities.
- Worked with Business Development to carve out, consolidate and analyze several businesses and product lines to be divested and developed a new budget and reporting structure for acquisitions.
- Designed and developed a new cash collection forecasting model, implemented incentives for the collections team and identified new relationships with third parties to help reduce DSO ratios and increase collection of bad debt reserves.

BIOGEN IDEC INC.

2007-2011

Publicly traded Biotech Company with more than \$5 billion in annual revenues and 6,000 worldwide employees.

Director of Finance, IT (2009-2011)

- Designed and implemented a new financial function to ensure proper accounting for IT assets and expenses spanning across US and international entities. Coordinated all FP&A, business partnership, and divisional strategic planning activities.
- Introduced a financial chart of accounts aligned with the business and directed a project to improve the quality, timeliness, and distribution of financial information that resulted in more rigorous financial and analytical decision-making throughout the division.
- Developed a financial procedure manual specific for IT, initiated formal program to train IT employees, and monitored compliance, significantly reduced number of financial errors and SOX compliance issues.
- Identified several inefficient spending and contract sourcing activities. Partnered with the CIO, management, and Strategic Sourcing to renegotiate contracts and realized \$10M in savings.

Internal Audit Director (2007-2009)

- Transformed a global internal audit and SOX organization by restructuring our people, process, and technology. Eliminated redundant activities and improved overall stakeholder satisfaction by increasing communication and formalizing training. Realized recurring annual savings of \$1M.
- Recruited and trained audit associates and implemented a COSO methodology to promote consistent, sustainable activities compliant with IIA and applicable industry standards.
- Designed and directed the Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) project and delivered an ERM summary to executive management and members of the F&A Committee of the Board showing risk ownership and related management practices. Directed the process to monitor and report interim changes in risk or mitigation activities through the annual risk assessment process and audit plan execution.

MERCK & CO. INC.

2000-2007

Publicly traded Pharmaceutical Company with \$45 billion in annual revenues and 83,000 worldwide employees.

Director, Sarbanes Oxley 404 (2004-2007)**Audit Manager, Asia Pacific and Corporate Joint Ventures (2000-2004)**

- Designed and executed a SOX process deemed "Best in Class" by PwC. Coordinated activities with internal and external resources, assigned audit professionals to address critical process design needs. Provided local management and process owners with ongoing training to highlight current US GAAP, international financial, and SOX requirements.
- Recruited, developed, and managed a geographically based organization of 15 audit professionals responsible for efficiently managing projects, evaluating financial and operational effectiveness of manufacturing, R&D, commercial, and corporate functions.
- Developed a rotational program and transitioned four employees to different compliance and finance roles in the company. Limited turnover to two employees.
- Collaborated with domestic and international stakeholders across 50 locations to understand operations, communicate issues and participate in strategic projects to develop, execute, and monitor remediation activities related to all aspects of the business.

PRUDENTIAL FINANCIAL INC.

Compliance Officer, Fixed Income Trading

1998-2000

Audit Manager

1995-1998

COMMODITIES CORPORATION

Senior Financial Analyst

1994-1995

NATIONAL FUTURES ASSOCIATION

Senior Auditor

1992-1994

EDUCATION / CERTIFICATIONS

Master of Business Administration, RUTGERS GRADUATE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT, 2000**Bachelor of Science, Accounting, RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY, 1992****CPA, State of New Jersey (Inactive)**

Updates on Recommendations for COVID-19 Safety Protocols for School Reopening

Fall 2021

Guidance and Recommendations from:

- American Academy of Pediatrics – July 19, 2021
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – July 27, 2021
- Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona – July 27, 2021
- Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Department of Public Health – July 30, 2021

American Academy of Pediatrics

- Guidance updated July 19, 2021
- AAP recommends a layered approach that includes vaccination when eligible and masking to make schools safe for all.

Mask:

“recommendation that everyone older than age 2 wear masks, regardless of vaccination status”

Guidance from CDC

Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools

Updated July 27, 2021

“Given new evidence on the B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant, CDC has updated the [guidance for fully vaccinated people](#). CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. Children should return to full-time in-person learning in the fall with layered prevention strategies in place.”

“Key Takeaways:

- Students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person instruction in the fall 2021 is a priority.
- Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting vaccination can help schools safely return to in-person learning as well as extracurricular activities and sports.”

To get kids back in-person safely,
schools should monitor



Community
Transmission



Vaccination
Coverage



Testing



Outbreaks

to help prevent the spread of COVID-19



cdc.gov/coronavirus

CS325431A 07/06/2021

Key Takeaways Continued:

- CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance when feasible between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask wearing by people who are not fully vaccinated, to reduce transmission risk. When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, such as when schools cannot fully re-open while maintaining these distances, it is especially important to layer multiple other prevention strategies, such as indoor masking.
- Screening testing, ventilation, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick and getting tested, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, and cleaning and disinfection are also important layers of prevention to keep schools safe.
- Students, teachers, and staff should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.
- Many schools serve children under the age of 12 who are not eligible for vaccination at this time. Therefore, this guidance emphasizes implementing layered prevention strategies (e.g., using multiple prevention strategies together consistently) to protect people who are not fully vaccinated, including students, teachers, staff, and other members of their households.
- COVID-19 prevention strategies remain critical to protect people, including students, teachers, and staff, who are not fully vaccinated, especially in areas of moderate-to-high community transmission levels.
- Localities should monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, screening testing, and occurrence of outbreaks to guide decisions on the level of layered prevention strategies (e.g., physical distancing, screening testing).

Statement from U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona

"Students are provided the best opportunity to learn and thrive when learning in person. We know the best way to safely do this is to get as many people age 12 and older vaccinated. Given the recent trends in COVID spread due to premature relaxation of prevention strategies by unvaccinated individuals and lagging vaccination rates in some parts of our country, we support the recommendation for masking in K-12 schools. We must do everything to ensure that our students do not have to compromise any more of their educational experiences due to increases in community spread. The Department stands ready to work with schools, families, and communities to implement these recommendations from the CDC and ensure all students in every corner of the country can return to school in-person, full time this fall." (July 27, 2021)

Guidance from DESE and DPH

- Released on July 30, 2021
- All districts and schools will be required to be in-person, full-time, 5 days a week this fall
- Masking, COVID-19 Testing, Quarantine Protocols

“Masking:

- This fall, DESE and DPH strongly recommend that all students in kindergarten through grade 6 wear masks when indoors, except students who cannot do so due to medical conditions or behavioral needs. Masks are not necessary outdoors and may be removed while eating indoors.
- DESE and DPH also strongly recommend that unvaccinated staff in all grades, unvaccinated students in grades 7 and above, and unvaccinated visitors wear masks indoors, in alignment with the statewide advisory on masking.
- DESE and DPH recommend that schools allow vaccinated students to remain unmasked.
- Any individual at higher risk for severe disease from COVID or with a household member who is at high risk is encouraged to mask regardless of vaccination status consistent with the updated DPH Advisory on Face Coverings and Masks.
- Any child or family who prefers to mask at school should be supported in this choice.
- By federal public health order, all students and staff are required to wear masks on school buses at this time.
- All staff and students must wear masks while in school health offices. Additional guidance for school health professionals is forthcoming from DPH.”

“COVID-19 Testing:

Districts and schools are highly encouraged to maintain or establish a robust plan for COVID-19 testing in schools, including both diagnostic testing and screening (pooled) testing for students and staff. DESE and the Executive Office of Health and Human Services will continue to offer these services at no cost to districts.”

“Quarantine Protocols:

DESE and DPH will soon release a new version of the “Protocols for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios” document. As part of this guidance, districts in the statewide testing program or using other approved diagnostic tests will be able to implement a new “test and stay” protocol in lieu of requiring asymptomatic close contacts to quarantine. Under test and stay, asymptomatic close contacts will have the option to remain in school and be tested daily with BinaxNOW for at least 5 days. Vaccinated staff and students are exempt from quarantine.”

Guidance Documents and Resources:

- [DESE/DPH COVID-19 Guidance for Districts and Schools: Fall 2021](#)
- [CDC: Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#)
- [CDC: Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#)
- [American Academy of Pediatrics Updates Recommendations for Opening Schools in Fall 2021](#)
- [Statement from U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona on CDC Guidance](#)

Credits.

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