

Date: March 8, 2025

To: Caledonia Community Schools Board of Education

Re: Draft Face Mask Policy Consideration 8450.01 - Discussion Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Good afternoon, Trustees.

Based upon feedback provided by Board members and the Community, I have established a draft Policy for your review and discussion at the Committee of the Whole. Please let me know if you have any questions ahead of time?

I look forward to Board discussion at Wednesday's meeting.

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Policy Statement

The Caledonia Community Schools Board of Education is committed to fostering a safe, inclusive, and effective learning environment for all students while respecting the rights and responsibilities of parents to make health-related decisions for their children. Recognizing the diverse perspectives within our community, this policy establishes a flexible, parent-centered approach to face mask usage in our schools.

Key Provisions

1. Parental Choice

- Parents or legal guardians have the authority to determine whether their child will wear a face mask while attending school, participating in school-sponsored activities, or riding

school provided transportation.

- No student will be required to wear a face mask against their parent's or guardian's expressed preference, except in cases outlined in Section 3 (Temporary Exceptions).

2. Non-Discrimination

- Students, staff, and families will not face discrimination, harassment, or disciplinary action based on their decision to wear or not wear a face mask.
- The district will ensure that all students, regardless of masking choice, have equal access to educational opportunities, extracurricular activities, and support services.

3. Temporary Exceptions

- In the event of a significant and verifiable public health emergency, as determined by Michigan State or Federal law, and in consultation with the Board of Education, temporary masking requirements may be implemented for a defined, limited time period.
- Any such mandate will:
 - Be communicated to parents with at least fourteen (14) days notice, barring an immediate emergency.
 - Include an opt-out process for parents who provide written notification to the school.
 - Expire automatically unless renewed by a majority vote of the Board following public input.

4. Support for Personal Health Decisions

- The district will provide access to face masks for students or staff who choose to wear them, upon request, at no cost.
- Classrooms and common areas will maintain enhanced ventilation and hygiene practices (e.g., air filtration, handwashing stations) to support overall health and comfort.

5 Education and Transparency

- The district will provide parents with up-to-date, factual information from credible health sources regarding mask usage, health risks, and mitigation strategies, enabling informed decision-making.
- Schools will not promote or discourage mask-wearing but will focus on delivering quality education while respecting family preferences.

6 Staff Flexibility

- Teachers and staff may choose to wear face masks based on their personal comfort and health needs, provided it does not interfere with their ability to perform their duties effectively.

Implementation

- This policy will take effect immediately upon approval by the Board of Education and will be communicated to all families by Administration via appropriate communication methods.
- Schools will maintain a simple notification process (e.g., a signed form or email) for parents to indicate their preference regarding their child's mask usage.
- The Board welcomes ongoing feedback from parents and the community to ensure this policy meets the needs of our students and families.

Rationale

This policy reflects the District's commitment to empowering parents as partners in their children's education and well-being. By prioritizing choice and flexibility, Caledonia Community Schools aims to reduce conflict, build trust, and maintain focus on academic excellence and student success.

Thank you for reviewing this information.

Sincerely,

Tim Morris
Caledonia Community School
Board President