

HAMPTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 2

Office of the Superintendent

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“Our mission is to provide a rigorous, personalized environment of academic excellence that prepares Each child, Each Day and in Every classroom to be college/career and citizen ready with no excuses.”

To: Hampton County School District 2 Parents & Community

From: Martin L. Wright,
Superintendent of Schools 

Date: May 17, 2021

RE: Face Covering Executive Order

On May 11, 2021, Governor McMaster issued Executive Order 2021-23 outlining the usage of face-covering in South Carolina's public schools. The Executive Order's language provides parents an opt-out option on their student's behalf from having to comply with face-covering requirements. The Board of Trustees, school administrators, and I believe that face covering, the continued practice of social distancing as outlined by the CDC, and robust sanitation by our custodian team remains one of the most effective mitigation strategies used by the school district to keep all students and staff safe.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have recently updated its recommendations about resuming regular activity without wearing a mask if one has been fully vaccinated. While district and school-level staff have participated in the vaccine rollout, not all students have had the opportunity to obtain the COVID-19 vaccination. This fact gives me caution in not allowing students and staff not to wear face-covering during school operational hours.

I believe that our community would desire that the school district continue to practice mitigation strategies to keep students and staff safe as we maneuver through this pandemic, at least until the end of the current school year. However, the opt-out consent form developed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) is attached should you wish for your child not to wear a face covering. You are to complete the consent form, sign and return to your child's school as soon as possible so that he or she will not have to wear a face-covering during school operational hours. Please know that a face covering is still required for school bus transportation.



CONSENT FORM TO OPT OUT OF FACE MASK REQUIREMENT IMPOSED ON STUDENTS BY A SCHOOL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 2021-23, issued by Governor Henry McMaster on May 11, 2021, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) has developed this standardized form to provide consent for or on behalf of a student in any public school in the State of South Carolina to opt out a student from a face covering requirement imposed by any public school official or public school district pertaining to school operations and facilities.

DHEC and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have provided guidance stating that the wearing of face coverings slows the spread of COVID-19. Failure to wear a face covering may subject a student to an increased risk of contracting COVID-19 and spreading COVID-19 to others.

By completing this form, you are authorizing your student to not wear a face covering while at school. A separate form must be completed for each child.

To Be Completed by Parent, Guardian, Legal Custodian, Foster Care Provider, Student 18 Years of Age or Older, or Student Otherwise Authorized to Provide Consent

Parent/Guardian/Legal Custodian/Foster Care Provider Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Student Information
("the student")

Name: _____

Student ID #: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Student Address: _____

By signing below, I attest that:

- I have signed this form freely and voluntarily, and I am legally authorized to make decisions for the student.
- I understand and agree that nothing herein shall relieve the parent, guardian, legal guardian, foster care provider, or student named from any liability associated with the student not wearing a face covering.
- I acknowledge that DHEC and the CDC recommend that students wear face coverings in the school environment to protect against the spread of COVID-19 based on scientific evidence and research studies.
- I agree on behalf of myself and the student to hereby release the school, school district, South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE), and DHEC from any and all liability associated with the student not wearing a face covering.
- I understand that the student is subject to any guidance issued by SCDE related to school bus operations based on limitations, restrictions, or requirements promulgated by the federal government, including wearing of face coverings while on a school bus. With the exception of face covering requirements, I understand that the student shall remain subject to all other school and school district requirements, including those related to COVID-19.
- I understand that if I am a student age 18 or older, or a student who may otherwise legally consent, references to “the student” refer to me and I may sign this form on my own behalf.
- I will notify the student’s school in writing if I choose to revoke my consent.

Signature of Parent/Guardian/Legal Custodian/Foster Care Provider:
(if student is under the age of 18)

_____ Date: _____

Signature of Student:
(if age 18 or over or otherwise authorized to consent)

_____ Date: _____