

Talking Points for Families: Masking Option

As we transition to the next phase of managing COVID-19, mask-wearing in school buildings will be optional. Some children and faculty will choose to no longer wear a mask, and many will continue to wear masks.

It is important for families to engage in conversations with their children about this shift. Below are some talking points to support your discussions:

- Discuss your family's decision related to mask wearing.
- Take a moment to acknowledge the decisions of others in school and the community who may differ from the decision you are making as a family.
- Talk about possible situations related to mask wearing that may occur during the school day and how your child may respond to it. For example, your child may choose to wear a mask and be asked why they are doing so. It may be helpful to respond that people have different preferences, and that you and your family are making a choice.
- Remind your child that their teachers are there to support them through any concerns they may have.
- Most importantly, it's important to help your child acknowledge their thoughts and emotions. By doing so, they will have compassion and understanding for a peer who may be exercising a choice that differs from theirs.

As a school community, we will be speaking to students about respecting each family's decision. Our messaging will focus on respect, responsibility, and relationships. This will include showing respect about a student's choice to wear a mask or not and a student's role and Responsibility to respect the decisions of those who may differ from their own. Our efforts to support students will continue throughout this transition to ensure a safe learning environment for everyone.

It is important to note that as of today masks continue to be required by federal law on school bus transportation until further notice. If there are any changes to that law, we will follow up with an updated communication.