



Masks FAQ

What is the district's policy on wearing masks?

We require all students and staff to wear masks or face coverings at all times, except during meals and brief mask breaks.

Face coverings will not be required for students where such covering would impair their health or mental health, or where such coverings would present a challenge, distraction, or obstruction to education services and instruction.

Why does the district require students and staff to wear masks?

The CDC, Department of Health and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend that people wear masks in public settings and when around people who don't live in your household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. Masks may help prevent people who have COVID-19 from spreading the virus to others.

What are mask breaks?

Mask breaks for students will occur during meals, physical activities, when outside, or instruction when other protective measures are in place, such as six feet of distance between individuals or when positioned between desktop barriers/shields.

They will be appropriate for the students' age and will meet all of the requirements from the Suffolk County Department of Health Services to avoid close contact.

What are acceptable masks?

The CDC updated guidance on masks from August 27, 2020, recommends wearing masks with two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric, that completely covers your nose and mouth and fits snugly against the sides of your face with no gaps.

The CDC guidance further recommends not wearing masks that make it hard to breathe, masks with exhalation valves, or masks intended for healthcare workers. The effectiveness of gaiters, bandannas and runner's fleece are unknown at this time and therefore not recommended by the district.