

SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Solano County, California

RESOLUTION NO. B21-22-25

URGENT REQUEST TO GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM TO RESCIND THE COVID-19 VACCINE MANDATE FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE K-12 STUDENTS AS A REQUIREMENT FOR IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AND VETO ANY LEGISLATION THAT WOULD REQUIRE SUCH MANDATE

WHEREAS, California's COVID case rate for the 0-17 age group is proportionally lower than any other age group. For children, the Centers for Disease Control CDC reports that as of January 10, 2022, 26.3% of children ages 5-11 and 64.3% of children ages 12-17 have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose; and

WHEREAS, some parents, including COVID-19 vaccinated, pro-vaccination parents, are very uncomfortable with subjecting their young children to a vaccination for which there is no longitudinal data; and

WHEREAS, it is the right of parents to make risk analysis-based decisions for their children, not school or government officials; and

WHEREAS, while we respect the right of parents to choose the most suitable educational program for their children, we believe the vaccine mandate could result in large numbers of families choosing to leave traditional in-person K-12 schools; and

WHEREAS, Solano County is the 6th most diverse county in the United States, and the CDC reports that vaccination rates among adults differs significantly by race and ethnicity. While the CDC does not currently report race/ethnicity of vaccinated children, vaccination rates as of January 10, 2022 among African Americans in California is 62% and among Latinos is 60%. This mandate could effectively shut out a return to classrooms for a significant part of the population of our communities; and

WHEREAS, by limiting in-person education only to those with the vaccine, some students will effectively be forced into independent study, which may not be an appropriate placement for every student, including students with exceptional needs under Education Code 51745. Forcing families to participate in independent study is inconsistent with the Education Code 51747 requirement that independent study be a voluntary educational option; and

WHEREAS, the Solano County Board of Education acknowledges the growing mental health crisis among children and will in all decisions weigh the need for normalcy, acknowledging a shared responsibility to protect not only the physical and academic, but also the social, emotional and mental health of our students.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, while the Solano County Board of Education understands and supports the goal of stopping the spread of COVID-19, we believe that the Governor's K-12 student vaccine mandate and similar legislation is ill-advised and in opposition to the educational and social-emotional goals of parents, the State and the Board of Education, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the Governor to rescind the vaccine mandate as a condition of in-person instruction in grades K-12 and veto any legislation that would introduce such a mandate, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Solano County Superintendent of Schools, in her capacity as Secretary of the Solano County Board of Education, is directed to transmit this Resolution to

Governor Gavin Newsom; Director and State Public Health Officer CDPH, Dr. Tomás J. Aragón; Dr. Mark Ghaly, California Health and Human Services; and Solano County Public Health Officer, Bela Matyas.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 9th day of February 2022 by the Solano County Board of Education, Solano County, California, by the following vote:

AYES: _____
NOES: _____
ABSTAIN: _____
ABSENT: _____

CERTIFICATION

I, Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Secretary to the Solano County Board of Education, Solano County, California, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution adopted by said Board at a regular meeting thereof held on the above stated date, which resolution is on file in the office of said Board.

Secretary's Signature

Date