



August 5, 2021

SENT VIA E-MAIL to

Santa Barbara Unified School District Board
Kate Ford, President
Rose Munoz, Vice President
Wendy Sims Moten, Clerk
Virginia Alvarez, Member
Laura Capps, Member

Cc: Hilda Maldonado, Superintendent, via email.

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Immunization Requirements

The League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara (the League) supports the SBUSD Resolution to ensure the health and safety of staff and students by requiring staff to provide proof of vaccination or submit to weekly testing. We also support the requirement for unvaccinated staff to obtain vaccinations prior to the start of the school year.

The League requests that clause #5 in the Resolution which states, "SBUSD unvaccinated students will be regularly tested to prevent the spread of COVID 19, especially among asymptomatic people. The testing protocol should be adaptable to the conditions in our community and to the appropriate age group needs." **to be revised to also include all unvaccinated staff.**

In addition, we are pleased to note that the Board has "delegated the authority to SBUSD Superintendent to enforce the **most current guidance** provided by the Santa Barbara County Health Department and other applicable authorities" to ensure students and staff can stay healthy.

The SBUSD must, at the minimum, enforce:

- the use of face masks for everyone over age 2 years to protect students unable to get the vaccine yet or who have chosen not to get it.

- physical distancing of students at least 3 feet apart within classrooms and the use of outdoor spaces and unused spaces for instruction and meals to help with distancing.
- classroom routines to help limit student interaction outside the classroom.
- cleaning, disinfecting & hygiene according to CDC guidelines.
- Ventilation to improve air flow as much as possible by opening windows and doors.
- Buses, hallways and playgrounds are cleaned often.

In addition to safety plans, there are other factors that SBUSD must address:

- Students at higher risk
- Some students with chronic, high-risk medical conditions may need extra accommodations to stay safe.
- Students with disabilities and Black, Indigenous and People of Color and others who may need behavioral health and emotional support
- Special safety steps or limits for organized activities, sporting events, practices, and other extracurricular activities.
- Continuation of healthy meals through school meal programs, access to the internet, and other vital services.

The League thanks you for your leadership and urges the SBUSD take a strong stance for disease prevention and health maintenance in our schools and community.

Sincerely,



Vijaya Jammalamadaka

President,

League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara