

Executive Order 251 provides that all school districts must maintain a policy regarding mandatory use of face masks by staff, students, and visitors in the indoor portion of the school district premises, except in certain circumstances where an exception applies. A copy of Executive Order 251 and its list of exceptions to the mask requirement can be found on <https://ni.clov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/E0-251.pdf>. One such exception includes when wearing a face mask would inhibit the individual's health. Executive Order 253 clarifies the exceptions noted in Executive Order 251 and provides that the school district's policy "must require individuals seeking a medical exemption from mask wearing under Paragraphs 1(a) — (c) of [Executive Order 251] to produce written documentation from a medical professional to support the exemption. Self-attestations and parental attestations are not sufficient for this purpose." A copy of Executive Order 253 can be found here: <https://ni.gov/infobank/eo/056murphv/pdf/E0-253.pdf>.

In accordance with the requirements of Executive Orders 251 and 253, all individuals in attendance at Board of Education meetings must either wear a face mask or meet one of the listed exceptions. If an individual is unable to wear a face mask because doing so will inhibit the individual's health, that exemption must be supported by written documentation from a medical professional in accordance with the requirements of Executive Order 253. Written documentation from a medical professional must be provided to Sallyann McCarty, Board Secretary, prior to the scheduled Board meeting and no later than the Monday at 12:00 p.m. immediately preceding the Board meeting. For example, for the November 8, 2021 Board meeting, written documentation from a medical professional must be provided by Monday, November 8, 2021 by 12:00 p.m. Any individual in attendance at a Board meeting who is not wearing a face mask or who does not meet one of the exceptions outlined in Executive Order 251 will be asked to leave the meeting. The Board of Education reserves the right to interpret the listed exceptions under Executive Order 251 in accordance with Executive Order 253's express language, including "exemptions to mask wearing should be as limited as possible to maximize protections."