

**PROCLAMATION OF
THE RESCUE UNION SCHOOL BOARD
REGARDING**

**THE IMPACT OF COVID-RELATED STATE LAWS AND MANDATES RELATED TO
MASKS, TESTING, QUARANTINES AND VACCINES ON OUR DISTRICT, EMPLOYEES,
FAMILIES, STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY**

WHEREAS, the Board acknowledges its legal responsibility to comply with the State of California laws, Governor Mandates and California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidelines;

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that COVID-related state laws and mandates regarding masks, testing, quarantines and vaccines have an impact on our district, employees, families, students, and community, and affects our ability to focus our time and energy on quality instruction;

WHEREAS, the Board is empathetic to our families and staff that are navigating an ever-changing situation;

WHEREAS, the Board has routinely sought to provide solutions to ever-changing California Governor Mandates and California Department of Public Health (CDPH) COVID-related guidelines;

- When California shut down schools in March of 2020 the District immediately implemented a quality distance-learning program for it's students;
- When California continued the shut down of schools in the fall of 2020 the Rescue Union School District identified a safe and legal way to provide in-person instruction for our students well before most districts in the state were able to do the same;
- When California implemented a mask mandate for schools the Rescue Union School District identified instructionally sound and safe ways for our students to be outdoors where they could learn in a mask-free environment;

WHEREAS, our District schools have operated in-person learning safely since reopening in August of 2020 without COVID-19 vaccine mandates for most of this time;

WHEREAS, the Governor of California is proposing a vaccine mandate that may eventually apply to the Districts' TK-8 students and employees;

WHEREAS, the Governor of California has provided no specific details or clear timeline related to a vaccine mandate that may eventually apply to the Districts' TK-8 students and employees;

WHEREAS, the Governor of California has not provided any dedicated time for our community to provide feedback to state decision makers on a possible TK-8 vaccine mandate;

WHEREAS, the Board is supportive of existing mandatory school vaccines, but recognizes that the COVID vaccines are new vaccines and that many families and staff have expressed concern regarding the lack of research on long-term impacts on those receiving the COVID-19 vaccine;

WHEREAS, while we respect the right of parents to choose the most suitable educational program for their children, we believe the vaccine mandate will result in families choosing to leave our in-person TK-8 schools for lower quality instructional programs. The Board strongly feels that the best academic and social emotional outcomes for students are accomplished through traditional in-person classroom instruction;

WHEREAS, and most importantly, the Board respects the important and fundamental role parents and guardians, in consultation with their pediatrician(s), play in the medical treatments they seek for their own children;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that while the Board of Trustees of the Rescue Union School District understands and supports the goals of the Governor and the California Department of Public Health to stop the spread of COVID-19, we believe that the Governor's TK-8 student vaccine mandate is creating divisions within our community and may lead to eroding the trust and partnerships that are essential to our core work:

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that we urge the Governor to both continue to allow and advocate for personal, religious and medical exemptions for the proposed vaccine mandate as a condition of in-person instruction in grades TK-8 for both our students and employees until more sufficient longitudinal data can be collected, and

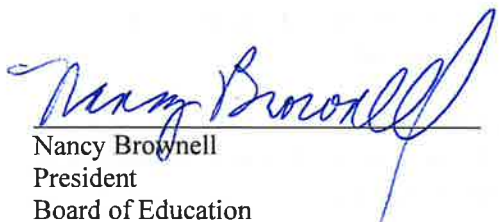
BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the Rescue Union School District intends to honor all legal COVID vaccine exemptions, like we do with all currently mandated vaccines, and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that we urge the Governor to reconsider, rescind or delay the proposed vaccine mandate as a condition of in-person instruction in grades TK-8, and allow the legislative process, accompanied by opportunities for public input, to determine the outcome of how the COVID vaccine will be implemented at TK-8 schools, and

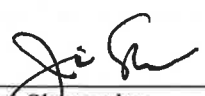
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board hereby directs the Superintendent to:

- identify opportunities for our community to be able to provide feedback to the Governor of California and the California Department of Public Health on a possible TK-8 vaccine mandate;
- transmit a copy of this proclamation to Governor Newsom, Senators and Assemblymembers that represent our area, and leadership at the California Department of Public Health;

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Rescue Union School District Board of Education on this 16th day of November 2021.



Nancy Brownell
President
Board of Education



Jim Shoemake
Superintendent and
Secretary, Board of Education