

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
WESTERN PLACER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
LINCOLN, CALIFORNIA**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LOCAL
DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY
REGARDING COVID-19 HEALTH AND
SAFETY PROTOCOLS AND
REQUESTING RECONSIDERATION OF
THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED
VACCINATION MANDATE**

RESOLUTION NO. 21/22.15

WHEREAS, The Western Placer Unified School District (WPUSD), operates 13 in-person campuses and has been a leader in getting students back in the classroom while following all California Department of Public Health (CDPH) requirements;

WHEREAS, WPUSD has operated in-person learning safely since reopening in fall of 2020 without ever needing to close a campus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, without a COVID-19 vaccination mandate;

WHEREAS, because the COVID-19 vaccine is currently available to all children ages 5 and up, is readily available, and has been readily available for adults in the home, the WPUSD Board of Trustees finds the March 31, 2022 expiration of the State of Emergency executive orders adequate time for every parent to decide to or not to vaccinate their child;

WHEREAS, if the State of Emergency is once again extended, the WPUSD Board of Trustees may challenge any state mandated emergency protocols inconsistent with local conditions;

WHEREAS, the WPUSD Board of Trustees support staff and families maintaining the choice and freedom to obtain the COVID-19 vaccine for themselves and their children, but believe the Governor's proposed vaccination mandate removes this choice from the equation by forcing individuals to submit to the mandate or lose access to in-person instruction (if they are students) and their jobs (if they are staff);

WHEREAS, parents, including COVID-19 vaccinated and pro-vaccination parents, have expressly shared they are uncomfortable subjecting their children to a vaccination for which there is little longitudinal data;

WHEREAS, success in Independent Study requires motivation and a strong commitment on the part of the student, as well as the support of parents or guardians, and therefore Independent Study may not be an appropriate placement for every student, including students with exceptional needs under Education Code section 51745;

WHEREAS, forcing families to participate in Independent Study is inconsistent with the Education Code section 51747 requirement that Independent Study be a voluntary education option;

WHEREAS, in the event Independent Study is offered and chosen, it is the WPUSD Board of Trustees' responsibility to ensure students in independent study receive an education comparable to their peers to the extent possible;

WHEREAS, the WPUSD Board of Trustees acknowledges the growing mental health crisis among children and will in all decisions weigh the need for normalcy, acknowledging WPUSD's responsibility to protect not only the physical, but also the social, emotional, and mental health of our students;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the WPUSD Board of Trustees believes that parent/guardian choice in vaccination and other health decisions is crucial;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the WPUSD Board of Trustees believes that staff choice in vaccination and other health decisions is important;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the WPUSD Board of Trustees expects Independent Study to remain optional regardless of any testing or vaccination mandates;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that while the WPUSD Board of Trustees understands the goals of the Governor and the CDPH to stop the spread of COVID-19, the Board believes that the Governor's planned K-12 student COVID-19 vaccine mandate is ill-advised and in opposition to the educational and social-emotional goals of the State and the District;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the WPUSD Board of Trustees urges the Governor to reconsider or rescind the proposed COVID-19 vaccine mandate as a condition of in-person instruction and employment in grades K-12;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the WPUSD Board of Trustees shall petition the State that the COVID-19 vaccine not be a requirement for students and staff;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the WPUSD Board of Trustees shall not adopt a District mandate for COVID-19 vaccinations for students or staff members;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED with the State of Emergency slated to end March 31, 2022, the WPUSD Board of Trustees expects all masking, testing and vaccination mandates to terminate at that time, with a return to normal school activities on April 1, 2022 consistent with local conditions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if a COVID-19 vaccine mandate is issued by the Governor which allows for personal belief exemptions, it is the WPUSD Board of Trustees' intent that all requests for personal belief exemption will be accepted by the District;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if COVID-19 vaccinations are required by law, the WPUSD Board of Trustees expects that enforcement in full will not be required until an FDA approved COVID-19 vaccine is readily available for students in Placer County;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Superintendent of the Western Placer Unified School District is directed to transmit this Resolution to Governor Gavin Newsom; Director and State Public Health Officer CDPH, Dr. Tomas J. Aragon; Dr. Mark Ghaly, California Health and Human Services; Placer County Board of Supervisors; Placer County Public Health; Assemblyman Kevin Kiley; Senator Brian Dahle; and the Placer County Board of Education to communicate our concerns.

AYES: Freymond, Price, Nitsos, Wyatt, Armitage

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:



Damian Armitage, President

I, Criste Freymond, Clerk of the Board of Trustees of Western Placer Unified School District, HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution was duly introduced, passed and adopted by the Board of Trustees at a meeting thereof held on the 18th day of January, 2022.



Clerk of the Board of Trustees