

RESOLUTION OF THE ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

December 1, 2021

INSISTING FOR STATE OFFICIALS TO RECOMMEND AND NOT REQUIRE THE COVID-19 VACCINE FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF

WHEREAS, California Governor Gavin Newsom announced October 1, 2021, that California would be the first state in the nation to require all students to be vaccinated; and

WHEREAS, Governor Newsom's announcement stated students will be required to be vaccinated, or complete an approved exemption form for in-person learning, starting the term following FDA full approval of the vaccine for their grade span (7-12 and K-6); and

WHEREAS, Governor Newsom is directing the California Department of Public Health to add the COVID-19 vaccine to other vaccinations required for in-person school attendance—such as measles, mumps, and rubella—pursuant to the Health and Safety Code sections 120325 – 120380, which will remove the personal belief exemption option for families; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 vaccine requirements will apply to all “pupil[s] of any private or public elementary or secondary school[s]” (HSC section 120335(b)); and

WHEREAS, this mandate will be a condition of in-person attendance (HSC section 120335(f)), and any student who is not vaccinated, and does not complete an approved exemption form, may remain enrolled in independent study but may not attend in-person instruction; and

WHEREAS, Governor Newsom has directed school staff be held to the same standards as students for the COVID-19 vaccine; and

WHEREAS, Governor Newsom's announcement states the current verify-or-test requirement for staff will be converted to a vaccine mandate no later than when the first phase of the student requirement becomes effective; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Office of Education, and all other California School districts already struggle to find qualified employees for both certificated and classified positions, and the COVID-19 vaccine requirement is likely to create more vacancies; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Board of Education supports local control and decision making; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Office of Education schools have operated in-person learning safely since reopening in the fall of 2020 without available vaccines or COVID-19 vaccination mandates for most of that time; and

WHEREAS, Orange County parents have expressed concern regarding the lack of research on long-term impacts of the COVID-19 vaccine on children; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Orange County Board of Education asks that the State of California legislature to uphold the constitutionally guaranteed right to provide informed consent before proceeding with any medical procedure of residents of the State of California for themselves and their children, and recommend and not require the COVID-19 vaccine for students and staff of TK-12 grade Local Education Agencies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Orange County Board of Education will continue its engagement with active litigation over emergency powers abuse by the Governor of California, and we petition the State of California that the COVID-19 vaccine be a recommendation and not a requirement for students and staff.

This resolution will be shared in the California Department of Public Health input sessions required to add the COVID-19 vaccine to the list of required vaccines.

ADOPTED by the Orange County Board of Education on the 1st day of December 2021.

AYES: 3 (Williams, Barke, Sparks)

NOES: 1 Gomez

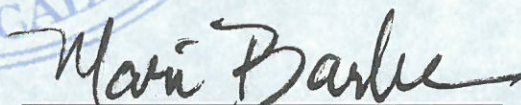
ABSENT: 0

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF ORANGE

I, Mari Barke, President to the Board of Education of Orange County, California hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted by the said Board at a regular meeting thereof held on the 1st day of December 2021 and passed by a vote of said Board Members present.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 1st day of December 2021.



Mari Barke, President
Orange County Board of Education