

Resolution Against Digital Vaccine Passport Mandates
Orange County Board of Education
May 5, 2021

Whereas, the Orange County Board of Education (OCBE) favors the preservation of our citizen's free movement, individual liberties and freedoms, free moral agency, security of private healthcare data, and parental rights in the upbringing of their children to make critical healthcare decisions in their children's well-being; and

Whereas, health vaccinations for school entry of children have historically been documented by a yellow-colored vaccine card that is completed by the child's private physician and/or healthcare clinic. These documents have been used for decades as best practices and health standards and record of documentation of vaccinations, and they have been recognized nationally and internationally by government agencies; and

Whereas, the Covid-19 pandemic has already inordinately affected people on the basis of race, gender, and socioeconomic status, and concerns exist that vaccine distribution is not globally equitable. The medical literature has consistently demonstrated that children have significantly lower rates of infection, morbidity and mortality from Covid-19, and this virus is generally not associated with spread in the school site setting by children; and

Whereas, in a WHO Scientific Brief, dated April 24, 2020,¹ it concluded that "*there is currently no evidence that people who have recovered from COVID-19 and have antibodies are protected from a second infection;*" it is also unclear whether COVID-19 vaccination prevents transmission as vaccinated people may be asymptomatic and unknowingly may spread the virus; and required vaccination of children could create a new cultural divide between those who are vaccinated and those who are not; and

Whereas, currently private businesses and corporate organizations along with government agencies are promoting the concept of a digital passport for vaccinations and healthcare data. This international collaborative effort is to create a global digital vaccine passport also known as immunity passports. These digital passports are being touted as a solution to ending lockdowns around the world by proponents of digital identity, the digital identity industry, think-tanks, and the travel and entertainment industry; and

Whereas, as a result of this concerted effort, there are universal concerns that any initial voluntary participation in a digital passport program will over time likely become compulsory for all American citizens, to include a vaccination mandate and digital vaccination passport for all health records of students, and children in K-12 schools; and

Whereas, there are numerous states in the USA with current or planned bans or limitations on vaccination mandates, and/or vaccine passports or health credentials. They include but are not limited to the states of Tennessee, Texas, Florida, Montana, Georgia, Iowa, and Nebraska²; thus making the nationwide or universal application of a digital passport moot and non-functional; and

¹ <https://www.who.int/news-room/commentaries/detail/immunity-passports-in-the-context-of-covid-19>

² <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/digital-transformation/vaccine-passports-10-states-with-bans-limitations-green-lights.html>

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Whereas, based on a lack of medical data the World Health Organization concluded in their February 5, 2021 travel advice³ that the use of such digital certificates may therefore increase the risks of continued transmission, and stated “*there is not enough evidence about the effectiveness of antibody-mediated immunity to guarantee the accuracy of an immunity passport;*” and

Whereas, digital vaccine and health record software applications are controversial, possessing big government Orwellian concepts about personal data collection, with the potential exploitation of collected data and identities by the corporations providing identity services and software; and the ACLU concurs with the opposition to digital passports by stating it is inherently discriminatory towards those who withhold vaccination(s), or do not possess digital technology; and

Whereas, as vaccine distribution is not globally equitable, a digital vaccine passport separates society into two groups of citizens, and creates the perception that the Covid-19 vaccine is de-facto compulsory, and those that refuse vaccination will face social exclusion; and

Whereas, not every citizen can be offered or has access to a vaccine or digital technology, and vaccine hesitant communities will be adversely impacted by digital passports, further advancing inequality and division; and

Whereas, currently Orange County residents receiving Covid-19 vaccination(s) are given a Vaccination Record Card as proof of vaccination after immunization. In Orange County, California a software application called Othena, currently used for covid-19 vaccination scheduling for residents in the said county, is being transitioned to and designed to function as a digital vaccination passport. The OC Supervisors and Health Care Agency has launched a digital passport pilot program documenting proof of that vaccination. It is touted without guarantees as a secure, digital record which provides a convenience for residents who have been Covid-19 vaccinated through the county; and

Whereas, Orange County Supervisor, Foley in a public statement defended and provided pseudo-assurances of the integrity and security of the digital passport. She stated⁴, the “*Othena digital vaccination record is a secure, digital record which has been provided as a convenience for residents who have been vaccinated through the County, and need to show proof of that vaccination. It’s a convenient and safe way for those who might need proof for domestic and international travel for business or personal reasons, and/or might be attending business conventions, trade shows or entertainment or sporting events. The record helps protect private information, while providing ease of access;*” and

Whereas, current health and vaccination records for school age children are primarily paper-based, decentralized, and protect family and student privacy. Voluntary or mandated digital health or vaccine passports advance the goals of advocates of digital health data. It unfortunately will result in restrictions of personal freedoms and private choice; loss of privacy of health data and information;

³ <https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/interim-position-paper-considerations-regarding-proof-of-covid-19-vaccination-for-international-travellers>

⁴ <https://bos2.ocgov.com/pr-othena-digi-vaccination-record>

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and potentially creates social stratification by denying key public services and access to a free society of citizens who are not vaccinated or do not possess digital technology; and

Therefore, the OCBE declares its opposition to vaccine or health digital passports, mandatory Covid-19 vaccination, and any future legal use of digital documentation of health care records; and

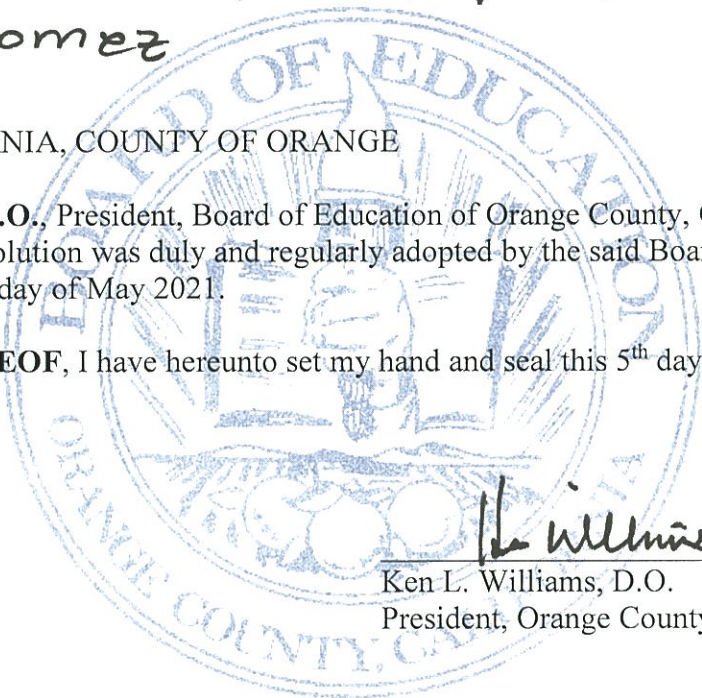
Furthermore, the OCBE advocates that any proposal for vaccine credentials must be primarily paper-based, decentralized, and protect family and student privacy.

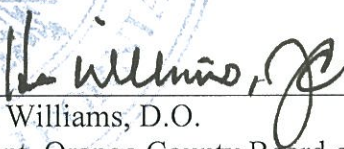
AYES: 4-1 (Williams, Barke, Sparks, Shaw)
NOES: 1 (Gomez)
ABSENT: 0

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ORANGE

I, **Ken L. Williams, D.O.**, President, 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 5th day of May 2021.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 5th day of May 2021.





Ken L. Williams, D.O.
President, Orange County Board of Education