

RESOLUTION 2023-

A RESOLUTION ON PARENTAL CHOICE AND INFORMED CONSENT REGARDING MASK USAGE

WHEREAS, the Big Walnut Local School District Board of Education is committed to promoting the well-being and health of our students, staff, and community members;

WHEREAS, the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons has issued a statement on November 16, 2023 emphasizing the importance of informed consent and raising concerns about the effectiveness and potential harms of mask mandates;

WHEREAS, the use of masks and face coverings has been recommended by government authorities as a public health measure during the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, there is ongoing debate and scientific discourse about the efficacy and potential harm associated with mask mandates;

WHEREAS, the Big Walnut Local School District Board of Education recognizes the importance of parental rights and individual freedoms in making health-related decisions for their children;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Big Walnut Local School District Board of Education acknowledges the concerns raised by the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons regarding mask mandates and their potential impacts on individuals' rights to informed consent and health.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Big Walnut Local School District Board of Education affirms that the decision to wear masks to school should ultimately be left to the discretion of parents or legal guardians, in accordance with their individual beliefs, the guidance of healthcare professionals, and their evaluation of the best interests of their children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Big Walnut Local School District Board of Education encourages open dialogue and communication between school administrators, parents, and healthcare providers to ensure that individuals have access to accurate and up-to-date information regarding the risks and benefits of mask usage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Big Walnut Local School District Board of Education recognizes the importance of reviewing and reevaluating its policies on mask usage as new scientific evidence and guidance becomes available.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in the interest of preserving individual freedoms and informed consent, all existing mask mandates within the Big Walnut Local School District Board of Education's jurisdiction shall be immediately rescinded.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Big Walnut Local School District Board of Education opposes the imposition of future mask mandates for viral illnesses, as they have not demonstrated clear benefits, and evidence suggests potential harm.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be communicated to all parents, staff, and stakeholders within the Big Walnut School District, emphasizing the importance of responsible decision-making and respect for individual choices in matters related to mask usage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Big Walnut Local School District Board of Education will continue to monitor the evolving situation related to COVID-19 and related public health measures and will adjust its policies accordingly to prioritize the well-being and educational needs of our students.

ADOPTED by the Big Walnut Local School District Board of Education on this 16th day of November, 2023.