

Southeastern Academy Mask Policy

At Southeastern Academy, we take our duty to provide a safe and healthy school environment seriously and will not tolerate conduct that jeopardizes the safety of others. We believe that our school is a community where we care for each other and think not just about ourselves but about our community when making decisions, especially where decisions could directly and seriously harm others.

Consistent with our duty to protect the health and safety of students, staff and our community, the Board of Directors of Southeastern Academy voted to implement a mandatory mask policy effective August 9, 2021. Beginning August 10, 2021 all employees, visitors and students are required to wear a mask upon entering and remaining on campus and on any transportation provided by the school. This mask policy is consistent with CDC and NCDHHS guidance, the Strong Schools Toolkit and the vast majority of public schools throughout North Carolina.

Wearing a mask protects others as much, if not more, than the person wearing it. Students who do not follow this policy will be subject to the school's disciplinary process. Employees who do not follow this policy, will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination. Because not wearing a mask places other students and staff in direct harm, the school will not be providing mask exemptions except in exceptional circumstances. Any mask accommodation will be reviewed in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Amendments, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

To provide the best protection against the spread of Covid-19, face coverings must be worn properly. Masks should be at least 2 tightly woven layers. The mask should completely cover the individual's nose and mouth and fit snugly around the face. Face shields should go at least 2 inches below the chin and completely surround the face to the ears.

The school will provide students and staff with mask breaks. In addition, temporary removal of the mask is permitted where necessary for the following purposes:

1. Actively engaging in an athletic or fitness activity;
2. Consuming food or drink;
3. For any emergency or medical purpose.

This policy will remain effective for the 20-21 school year only. At least once a month the board will review this policy and consider the need for modifications. The board will vote to approve this policy, with any necessary modifications at a regularly scheduled board meeting.