

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

SYNOPSIS AGENDA/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CODE:	<u>SBE-01</u>
COMMITTEE:	<u>Full Board</u>
DATE:	<u>August 11, 2020</u>

SUBJECT/TITLE

State Board of Education: Health and Safety of Students Policy

PURPOSE OF REPORT/REGULATION/ITEM

This policy grants the State Superintendent of Education the express authority to take any precautionary safety measures in all South Carolina public school facilities deemed necessary by the Superintendent to protect the health, safety, and welfare of students and staff.

CRITICAL FACTS

On March 13, 2020, Governor Henry McMaster issued Executive Order 2020-08, declaring a State of Emergency based on a determination that the 2019 Novel Coronavirus ("COVID-19") poses an actual or imminent public health emergency for the state of South Carolina. Also, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a national emergency, which began on March 1, 2020.

Furthermore, on March 15, 2020, Governor McMaster issued Executive Order 2020-09, directing the closure of all public schools in the state of South Carolina for students and non-essential employees beginning March 16, 2020. Public school facilities remained closed until the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

With the start of the 2020-21 school year approaching, and to best protect the health, safety, and welfare of South Carolina public school students and staff, the SCDE supports the national and state efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19 by requiring face coverings to be worn on school buses and within public school facilities.

TIMELINE/REVIEW PROCESS

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| • March 13, 2020 | The President of the United States declared that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a national emergency, which began on March 1, 2020. |
| • March 13, 2020 | Governor Henry McMaster issued Executive Order 2020-08, declaring a State of Emergency based on a determination that |

the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”) poses an actual or imminent public health emergency for the state of South Carolina.

- March 24, 2020 Emergency Regulation 43-40, COVID-19 Waiver and Suspension of Provisions, was presented and approved by the South Carolina State Board of Education and remained active for ninety days.
- July 27, 2020 Superintendent Spearman instituted a statewide face mask requirement for all school bus riders, including students, drivers, and staff. Such requirements allowed districts to increase ridership capacity to 67%.
- August 3, 2020 Superintendent Spearman released comprehensive guidance regarding face covering requirements for school buses and school facilities.
- August 3, 2020 Governor McMaster issued Executive Order 2020-50, requiring face coverings in all state government offices, buildings, and facilities. The Executive Order also encourages counties and municipalities to enact and enforce emergency ordinances requiring face coverings in public settings where practices effective social distancing is not possible.
- August 11, 2020 Policy presented to the State Board of Education for approval.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

COST: _____ There is no cost impact with the proposed changes.
FUND/SOURCE: _____

ATTACHMENTS

Attachments: ☒ yes ☐ no
(attachments must be submitted with synopsis)

Name of Attachments: South Carolina Department of Education Face Covering Guidelines for K-12 Public Schools

RECOMMENDATION

The SCDE recommends the SBE approve the requested State Board of Education: Health and Safety of Students Policy

ACTION REQUEST

FOR APPROVAL: ☒

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: ☐

Revised: 5-7-19