

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the District's position regarding vaccine mandates?**

Currently, there are no mandates for students of any age to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to attend school in person. We have not imposed and do not intend to implement any such mandate of our own accord. We fully support the rights of families and staff to the fullest extent of the law. Governor Newsom has also stated that exemptions will be available, including "personal exemptions," consistent with the law.

Requirements established by regulation, not legislation, must be subject to exemptions "for both medical reasons and personal beliefs" ([HSC section 120338](#)). Since the proposed mandate will be established by executive order, medical, religious, and personal belief exemptions are required. In addition, [Senate Bill 277 \(SB\)](#) has a caveat that when a new vaccine is added to the list of the current requirements, there may be an exemption for personal beliefs.

### **Will the District accept vaccine exemptions?**

Yes. If a mandate is imposed on school districts, BUSD will accept all exemptions under the law as this is the current practice.

### **If the school district is not responsible for the proposed vaccine mandate/other laws/mandates affecting school districts, who do I contact?**

Our Board of Education, district administrators, principals, teachers, and staff are not involved in making state/federal laws. We do not have jurisdiction over public health matters, nor do we have authority over the decision-making of the State of California Regular Rulemaking Process or the legislative process. Those responsibilities are under the jurisdiction of our local state representatives (listed below).

We encourage you to let your voice be heard. If you would like to share your opinion about this proposed mandate or provide input on the rulemaking process, please direct those to the California Department of Public Health at (916) 558-1784 or our local representatives listed below. To view other California legislators, please visit the following link: <http://www.legislature.ca.gov>.

Senator Anthony Portantino  
25th District  
201 East Bonita Ave.  
San Dimas CA 91773  
(909) 599-7351

Assemblymember Chris Holden  
District 41  
415 W. Foothill Blvd. Suite 124  
Claremont CA 91711  
(909) 624-7876

Los Angeles Board Supervisor Kathryn Barger  
5th District  
615 East Foothill Blvd., Suite A  
San Dimas CA 91773  
(909) 394-2264

**Is the District going to teach Critical Race Theory (CRT)?**

No. On October 8, 2021, Governor Newsom signed AB 101, requiring all students to complete a semester-long course in ethnic studies to earn a high school diploma. Ethnic Studies is not CRT. As this law is new, there are more questions than answers at this time. For example, what grade will receive the instruction, who will lead the course, what curriculum will be used, etc.? AB 101 requires that high schools must start offering classes in the 2025-2026 school year. This course is not optional and will be taught in all public and private schools in California. BUSD will begin the adoption process of the ethnic studies curriculum in the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years and will run the curriculum adoption process as we always do, which includes input from all stakeholders, including parents. In addition, several parent meetings will be held to ensure a fully transparent process. We will begin offering ethnic study courses in the 2025-2026 school year.

**Is the District going to teach comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention?**

Yes. The California Healthy Youth Act (CHYA), enacted on January 1, 2016, provides comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education to grades 7-12. Although this program is not optional for school districts, parents do have the individual choice to opt their students out of this instruction. This year, the curriculum will be taught in grades 7, 8, 9, and 10 for one class period for approximately ten school days. In subsequent years, this curriculum will be taught in grades 7 and 9. If any parent/guardian wants to exempt their student(s) from the program, an email or letter can be sent to your site principal.

At least three weeks before the sexual health education and HIV prevention instruction, all parents of students who will participate in the instruction will be notified of instruction dates, provided information on how to opt-out, and provided time to view the curriculum. If you wish to view the curriculum ahead of time, please contact your middle school, high school, or the District Office and schedule an appointment.

**Is the District required to enforce masks/face coverings in school settings?**

Yes. Masks are mandated under both State K-12 protocols and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. If the mask mandates are lifted by the state and County of Los Angeles Health Department in the future, the District would be able to consider the appropriateness of masks in schools at that time. On August 12, 2021, all families received a letter regarding the mask requirements and exemptions. The letter can be viewed at this [link](#).