

COTTONWOOD CREEK CHARTER SCHOOL

**3425 Brush Street
Cottonwood, CA 96022**

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES ON COVID-19 VACCINE MANDATES

RESOLUTION #2021-05

Updated Principles are below based on feedback gathered during the November 29, 2021 meeting. Time was not spent during the meeting on wordsmithing. Bruce Ross as Shasta Delegate to the CA School Boards Association Assembly will use these principles this week in San Diego and each school board has the opportunity to customize these common principles within letters and future advocacy.

1. Shasta County educators are well aware of the learning loss caused by COVID-19-related school shutdowns, virtual learning environments, and extended quarantines. As many parents in Shasta County voice their opposition to the proposed student vaccine mandate, there is concern that the mandate may force students who are best served by a classroom environment into an independent study learning model. This is especially significant to special needs students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) who may have difficulty learning at home.
2. Residents of rural communities are substantially less likely to have been vaccinated for COVID-19. A policy that requires students to have the COVID-19 vaccination in order to attend school, exacerbates existing disparities between urban and rural schools. Internet reliability is also disproportionately limited in our rural communities impacting the options for virtual learning and connectivity.
3. COVID-19 is a serious disease that poses real health risks, and we acknowledge the losses that have occurred for many families in our community. However, vaccination mandates do not allow for the consideration of specific health situations or the thoughtful weighing of risk vs benefit. The choice to vaccinate should always be the responsibility of individuals and parents.
4. Many Shasta County parents have communicated concerns regarding the unknown, long-term side effects of a new vaccine and its ability to protect individuals from contracting or spreading COVID-19.

5. Current state law allows Personal Belief Exemptions for new school vaccinations required by the California Department of Public Health. The management of those exemptions should remain under the authority of local school districts to meet the needs of their communities and schools. The Department of Public Health should not draft regulations that limit the scope of personal belief exemptions.
6. The Personal Belief Exemption is a provision in state law that allows parents to make decisions about their children's health. The Legislature should retain the option to use the Personal Belief Exemption regarding the COVID-19 vaccination.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 13th day of December, 2021, by the Board of Directors of the Cottonwood Creek Charter School, Shasta County, California

AYES: 3

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 1

ABSTAIN: 0



Board President



Mark Boyle, Director