

Resolution – Vaccination & Reopening Plan

BOARD RESOLUTION No. 20/21-7

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Washington Governor Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency in all counties of our state under Chapters 38.08, 38.52, and 43.06 RCW, and directed the implementation of the plans and procedures of the state's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan in response to the novel COVID 19 (COVID-19) and on March 13, 2020, Governor Inslee ordered the closure of all public and private K-12 schools in Washington State until April 24, 2020, to contain the spread of COVID-19, and on April 6, 2020, directed that school buildings remain closed from providing traditional, in-person instruction throughout the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year; and

WHEREAS, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) data indicates that, as of November 2020, approximately 73% of the students enrolled within the 35 school districts located within Northwest Educational Service District 189 were receiving fully remote instruction; and

WHEREAS, it is commonly acknowledged by educators and health care professionals that remote instruction is not an adequate replacement for in person classroom instruction and that it has led to student learning loss and social emotional challenges for many students, particularly those who are most vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, on June 11, 2020 Governor Inslee issued a proclamation, which, in part, required school districts to begin planning for the possible reopening of schools in the fall of 2020; and

WHEREAS, Governor Inslee's proclamation was followed by a publication by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, titled, *Reopening Washington Schools 2020: A District Planning Guide*; and

WHEREAS, since late November 2020, the Washington State Department of Health data indicates a surge in COVID 19 infections; and

WHEREAS, this surge in infections is expected to be fueled by COVID 19 variants that are now being identified; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control has indicated that herd immunity is essential for slowing the spread of the COVID 19; and

WHEREAS, achieving herd immunity will greatly facilitate safely reopening Washington's public schools; and

WHEREAS, the COVID 19 vaccine is an essential strategy in insuring herd immunity; and

WHEREAS, recent changes to the state's vaccination phasing plan allow all school staff, regardless of age, to receive the vaccine in Phase 1B, Tier 2, which is estimated to begin this spring; and

WHEREAS, delaying vaccination eligibility for all school staff will further extend the timeline for in person student learning potentially until the end of the current school year, contrary to the Governor's interest;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of the Lopez Island School District No. 144, strongly urges Governor Jay Inslee and Umair Shah, the Secretary of Health for the State of Washington, to allow providers administering the vaccine to include all school district staff, regardless of age, in the current phase of the state's vaccination plan.

Adopted and approved this 27th day of January, 2021 .

DocuSigned by:
By: Jerry Poole
Board President or Designee

Attest: Carole Brewer
Superintendent

Adoption Date:
Classification:
Revised Dates: