



Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D., Commissioner

# NEBRASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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## Resolution on Community Responsibility in the COVID-19 Pandemic

**WHEREAS**, The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) continues to spread within the United States;

**WHEREAS**, As of November 13, 2020, 92,553 Nebraskans have contracted the virus and 756 Nebraskans have tragically lost their lives;

**WHEREAS**, The coronavirus disproportionately affects communities of color and the economically disadvantaged;

**WHEREAS**, Schools and communities have planned diligently for the safe return of students and staff to schools, and largely been successful in mitigating the spread of COVID-19 within school buildings; and

**WHEREAS**, The greatest threat to keeping schools open is unmitigated, uncontrolled community spread threatening to overwhelm hospital capacity in our state and communities; now, therefore,

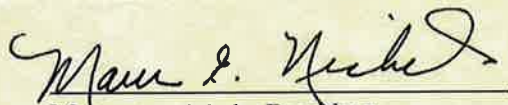
**WHEREAS**, The Nebraska State Board of Education applauds schools for their vigilance with safety protocols; be it

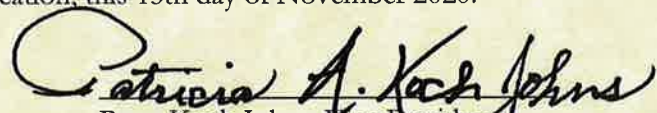
**RESOLVED**, That the Nebraska State Board of Education affirms the efficacy of face coverings and strongly recommends a statewide mask mandate, to ensure the safety of all students, staff, and community members;

**RESOLVED**, That the Nebraska State Board of Education implores communities to do their part to keep students and staff safe, and schools open by reducing community spread through personally responsible actions like wearing face coverings in public, staying home when possible, and avoiding the three Cs: Crowded Places, Close Contacts, and Confined Spaces; and let it be

**RESOLVED**, That the Nebraska State Board of Education calls upon the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Governor Pete Ricketts, local health departments, and the Nebraska Department of Education, to continue to collaborate and implement policies aimed at keeping students, staff, and communities safe.

Signed on behalf of the Nebraska State Board of Education, this 13th day of November 2020.

  
Maureen Nickels, President

  
Patsy Koch Johns, Vice President

Ratified by the Nebraska State Board of Education, December 11, 2020.