

CHARTER SCHOOL WAIVER REQUESTS

OCTOBER 26, 2021



INTRODUCTIONS

- Kendra Hossfeld, North Star Academy [675 students]
- Bob Barber, Aspen View Academy [964 students]
- Jason Edwards, Lemman Academy of Excellence [1,038 students]
- Erin Kane, American Academy [2,856 students]

Collectively, we make up almost 9% of district enrollment

BOE POLICY JLCC WAIVER REQUEST

- All of our schools are requesting an ongoing, permanent waiver from DCSD Policy JLCC.
- As we did last year, each of us want to determine the COVID protocols (within local and state requirements) that work for our unique communities.
- This is NOT an effort to evade legal mandates put in place by applicable local and state health agencies; this is an effort to maintain the autonomy that the school district honored last year for our charter school communities.
- This waiver does not, in any way, change our dedication to caring for and protecting ALL of our students, including those with special needs. We protect each student the same way we meet the educational needs of each student – through differentiation.

LOCAL TRI-COUNTY COVID-19 DATA

- Douglas County's COVID-19 seven day rolling case average during the peak last year was .08% (80 cases per 100,000) (with no mask mandate for 2-10 year-olds in most charter schools).
- The rolling average in August before the Tri-County health order requiring masks was in place was .03%.
- Douglas County has .03% positive covid cases currently.
- So why mandate masks now?

COVID DATA IN OUR SCHOOLS

- We have all experienced LOW transmission in schools
- Our data shows that a school exposure *rarely* results in a positive case
- Our data shows that masking status had no impact on school transmission

SCHOOL	2020-2021 School Year		2021-2022 School Year		
	Percent of Students that got COVID at School <i>Mask-Optional Population</i>	Percent of Students that got COVID at School <i>Mask-Required Population</i>	Percent of School Exposures Resulting in a Positive Case	Percent of Students that got COVID-19 at School	Percent of School Exposures Resulting in a Positive Case
AA	0.02%	2%	2%	0.6%	0.5%
AVA	0.03%	2%	2%	1.6%	1.4%
NSA	0%	0%	0%	2.2%	2.50%
LAE	2.3%		1.6%	0.05%	0.02%

BOE POLICY JLCC REPLACEMENT POLICY

- Our proposed replacement policies are virtually identical to DCSD's Policy JLCC.
- References to the district are replaced with the name of the applicable charter school.
- The references to CDPHE and Tri-County Health are replaced with a reference to “appropriate state and local health department.”
- The replacement policy expresses a commitment to cooperate and share data with the school district.
- We will continue to adhere to all applicable state and local public health orders.
- All schools will continue to seek legal counsel around these matters.

PRESERVING CHARTER AUTONOMY

Essential Charter School Premise:

Those closest to a situation are in the best position to make decisions for their stakeholders.

BOE POLICY ADB WAIVER REQUEST AND REPLACEMENT POLICY

- We are all in agreement with the board's intent and the spirit of the policy.
- We seek to preserve the board's intent of providing inclusion, a sense of belonging, differentiated resources, and equal opportunities for every individual student in our buildings.
- We are committed to ensuring an educational environment free of discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, national origin, socio-economic status, disability, eligibility for special education services, or point of view.
- We are also seeking to provide clarity for our communities without leaving room for misinterpretation.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

- Thank you for your consideration!
- We are happy to take questions.