

Junction Elementary School District

Clay Ross, Superintendent

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Junction School

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Board Members:

Hope Bjerke
Heather Richards
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Oct 15, 2021

Regarding Oct 1, 2021 Vaccine Mandate for students

Dear Junction Family,

On October 1, 2021, the Governor announced his plan that he will require students 12+, which corresponds with students in grades 7-12, to be vaccinated after full approval from the FDA and many public opportunities to receive feedback on the issue prior to implementation. According to his letter, (attached), the earliest this can go into effect is January 1, 2022 and more likely to be July 1, 2022 considering the lengthy public comment period. The vaccine requirement will be in place in order to receive in-person instruction (attendance). At some point, once the mandate is in place, school staff will also be required to vaccinate in order to provide in-person instruction. As this is simply a mandate currently, it is required that personal, philosophical and religious exemptions be considered. Should the California State Legislature take action to include the COVID-19 Vaccination along with the existing vaccinations, these exemptions would go away. Nothing related to student or staff vaccination is changing at this time.

Currently, the Governor has mandated that schools adhere to weekly COVID-19 testing of all unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated school workers (August 11, 2021). School workers are identified as all school staff and those who work, paid or not, on school sites. This list would expand to walk on coaches, substitute teachers, volunteers and possibly contractors. This plan needs to be in place by October 15, 2021. In Junction Elementary School District, we will begin our testing of staff next week. We are working with all staff and will begin figuring out the testing of non-staff 'workers' soon. We may be faced with some new staffing challenges in the event that staff do not comply with testing requirements. I assure you that I will do everything I can to provide the best possible education and educationally related services to your students

These past nearly two years have been very challenging with many different issues, yet we continue to work diligently to keep your children safe, engaged, healthy, happy and learning as best we can. All of the staff at Junction Elementary School District appreciate your support. We respect your stance whether it be in favor of or against these mandates. We appreciate that you know they are not coming from us, but your Governor, your California Department of Public Health and potentially your California Legislators.

We at Junction Elementary School District are in the business of educating children. We do that job very well. We did not choose this profession, it chose us. We did not choose these mandates, they are chosen for us. Please take your arguments to those responsible for these mandates, be heard, be seen if that is what you feel you need to do. We will be open for business on Monday, October 18, 2021 to fulfill our obligation to teach your children every day bell to bell.

Thank you,

Clay Ross
Superintendent