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MEMORANDUM

TO: New Bedford Public Schools Staff
FR: Thomas Anderson, Superintendent
DT: Tuesday, October 6, 2020
RE: NBPS Face Covering Policy: *FACE COVERINGS: EBCFA*

Student and staff safety remain our priority. As we navigate through the unforeseen challenges that COVID-19 presents us, we work to ensure protocols and policies are in place that support a safe teaching and learning process. With that in mind, at my recommendation the NBPS School Committee approved a face covering policy: **FACE COVERINGS: EBCFA**, at the October 5 School Committee meeting. The policy will take full effect on Monday, October 19, 2020. All staff were already required to wear masks/face coverings and this policy now requires **students in ALL grades** to wear masks/facing coverings.

Per CDC guidance individuals may be excused from the requirement for the following reasons if the individual:

- has trouble breathing
- is unconscious
- is incapacitated
- cannot remove the face mask/face covering without assistance

In addition, masks/face coverings will not be required for anyone who has a medical, behavioral or other challenge making it unsafe to wear a face mask/face covering.

Additionally, face masks/face coverings will not be required when appropriate physical distancing is enforced:

- during mask breaks
- while eating or drinking
- during physical education classes
- while outside

Exceptions to this policy under certain circumstances, such as for students with medical, behavioral or other challenges who are unable to wear masks, must be approved by the building principal in consultation with the school nurse or local Board of Health. Face shields or physical barriers may provide an alternative in some instances.

Our collective effort is essential as we continue to work on behalf of one another to be proactive to help eliminate the spread of the virus. I appreciate your dedication and flexibility during this unique time in our lives.

