

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

ARLINGTON ISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO CONSIDER LEGAL ACTION AGAINST GOVERNOR ABBOTT AND VIRTUAL LEARNING OPTIONS FOR PRE-K THROUGH SIXTH GRADE STUDENTS

Discussion to be held at Aug. 19 board meeting

AUGUST 13, 2021, ARLINGTON, TX – Arlington ISD officials are considering legal action against Texas Governor Greg Abbott's executive order prohibiting school districts from requiring face coverings.

"Arlington ISD's attorneys are drafting a lawsuit against Governor Abbott's executive order for consideration by the board of trustees at Thursday's meeting," said Kecia Mays, president of Arlington ISD's Board of Trustees. "We are advocating to put the decision to mandate masks back into the hands of our district. We are in a community with a high rate of COVID-19. The positivity rate is over 22%. No ICU beds are available for pediatric patients. We have to implement every mitigation effort to slow the spread of COVID-19, and one of the tools we have – the mask – has been taken away as an option to mandate."

Mays says that the legal action being drafted will be reviewed at the Arlington ISD board meeting on Thursday, August 19. Additionally, the board will hear a recommendation to offer a virtual learning option for students in pre-K through sixth grade since students in that age group cannot be vaccinated at this time.

Superintendent Dr. Marcelo Cavazos urges all students, staff and visitors to come to school on Monday when the doors open for the new school year – but do so with a mask. "I strongly encourage all students, staff and visitors to wear a mask while at our campuses and on the bus. We know it's the best way to protect ourselves and each other from COVID-19."

Arlington ISD's [board meeting agenda](#) will be posted in advance of the August 19 meeting.

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