**Template Letter for Parents**
Topic: Masks Now Required at School

*A temporary injunction allows Oklahoma schools to implement mask mandates without a state of emergency, if they (1) allow religious, medical and personal exemptions and (2) they do not differentiate between vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.*

*This letter can be customized to communicate mask mandates to parents and staff, if implemented by your district. (OSSBA is also providing a template opt-out form.) If you need assistance finalizing this letter, please contact Amber Graham Fitzgerald, Director of Member Engagement, at* *amberf@ossba.org* *or 580.541.0597.*

Dear [District] Parents and Staff:

Based on recommendations from the CDC, [District] will require masks for students and staff at school, effective [date]. The safety of our school family is our greatest priority and increasing cases of COVID-19 in our [community or state] made this difficult decision necessary.

**OR**

Based on recommendations from the CDC, the [District] Board of Education has voted to require masks for students and staff at school, effective [date]. The safety of our school family is our greatest priority and increasing cases of COVID-19 in our [community or state] made this difficult decision necessary.

We believe, like most parents and community members do, that in-person learning is best for students. By wearing masks in the school setting, we can better protect the health of students and staff and likely reduce disruptions to learning. Health officials agree that masking is an important mitigation tool to have a safe, successful and in-person school year.

Masks will be required in the following locations of the school: [list locations such as the classroom or the cafeteria when not eating or drinking. If the rules will differ between age levels, include that information as well.]

An Oklahoma judge recently ruled that – at least temporarily – the masking requirement implemented by [District] (and many other districts) is permissible under state law. This is because parents may choose to opt their children out of participation for any one of three exceptions: (1) medical reasons; (2) religious reasons; or (3) personal reasons. To opt-out your child, please [describe district procedure for opting out.]

[District] teachers and support professionals are encouraged to visit with their principal or department supervisor about the process for opting out for religious or medical reasons.

In addition to masking, [District] will continue to implement other strategies to protect students and staff, including [list mitigation efforts such as social distancing, hand washing, sanitizing, etc.]

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve you and your family, especially as we face this challenging situation together. Thank you for your support of [District].

Sincerely,
[Name]
Superintendent