

SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

Board of Education

November 9, 2021

**Authorizing a Regular COVID-19 Testing Requirement for Participation in High School Athletics**

- WHEREAS** Athletics provides important physical and mental health benefits for students; and
- WHEREAS** the Minnesota Health Department recognizes organized sports as an activity with increased risk of spreading COVID-19; and
- WHEREAS** the spread of COVID-19 in athletic settings results in increased absences in classrooms and has a negative impact on academics; and
- WHEREAS** the spread of COVID-19 has cancelled and impaired athletic opportunity for Minneapolis Public School students for over 18 months; and
- WHEREAS** Minneapolis Public Schools desires to maintain playing opportunities for our student athletes while maintaining health guidelines advised by local health officials; and
- WHEREAS** medical professionals and public health officials advise regular testing and vaccination as the best strategies in slowing community spread and infections, and CDC guidelines advise shorter quarantine periods for vaccinated individuals who come in close contact with infected individuals; and
- WHEREAS** vaccines are available for students ages 12-18 which coincides with students eligible to participate in high school athletics; and
- WHEREAS** unlike academic and classroom access, athletic participation is a privilege, not a right; and
- WHEREAS** Minneapolis Public Schools currently includes medical clearance as part of our high school athletic registration process.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Directors of Special School District No. 1, hereby directs and grants necessary authorization to the Superintendent to implement the following procedure effective November 15, 2021 through March 4, 2022:

1. Requirement that all student athletes take a COVID-19 test weekly in order to participate in MPS athletics, as defined by those sports coordinated by the MPS District Athletics Department

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2. An exemption option to the weekly testing requirement for those who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19

**FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED** that failure to comply will result in immediate suspension from participation.

Signed by:

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Kim Ellison  
Board of Education Chair

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Date

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Josh Pauly  
Board of Education Clerk

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Date