

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Special Meeting
September 16, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Gilbert Lara
Comment:	<p>Dear Board Members,</p> <p>On behalf of the Office of Councilmember Eric Guerra and District 6, we support the SCUSD Board Member's strategy to implement mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations and/or weekly staff COVID-19 testing requirements in accordance with the California Department of Public Health's Order dated August 11, 2021.</p> <p>Research supports that receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, practicing social distancing, and wearing protective facemasks reduce the transmission of COVID-19. Therefore, vaccinations are essential in combating the COVID-19 virus and keeping our schools safe for our students and faculty.</p> <p>The Sacramento Unified School District is one of the oldest K-12 districts in the western United States. It serves over 40,000 students on over 75 campuses. Some of the brightest minds in our country graduated through our school system, and we must provide our current students with the best education without delay.</p> <p>Other major school districts in California have already implemented a similar COVID-19 strategy and has done so successfully. This is a step in the right direction and is a sound public health measure critical to keep our classrooms open and most importantly keep our students and teachers safe.</p> <p>We urge you to vote yes on item 8.4.</p> <p>Thank You</p>

Speaking as: Office of Councilmember Eric Guerra

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 9/16/2021 11:58:30 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Special Meeting
September 16, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Emily Warmerdam
Comment:	<p>I strongly support mandatory vaccinations for the SCUSD's student population. Covid will continue to be a major threat to children's academic success and health until vaccines are required. I urge you to please add the Covid vaccine to the long list of required immunizations in place at public schools.</p> <p>I am very grateful that our district has provided testing on-site. However, the communication has been insufficient and confusing. Parents signed up for consent on the district website, but nobody understood that surveillance testing was only initiated after the second step of notifying the school office or Health Aide.</p> <p>Please improve communication. Make it more frequent. Make the steps for signing up easier to understand. Communicate the frequency and type of test (PCR vs. rapid) and why they choose which test. Send home site specific information, such as the contact information of their Health Aides, as a flyer in backpacks. Make sure teachers are promoting testing during Back to School Night and through their emails to parents.</p> <p>We have proven tools to keep our kids safe. Let's use them to their fullest potential.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 9/16/2021 10:50:27 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
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Name:	Brittany Wilkerson
Comment:	Please do not mandate vaccines for our youth. This vaccine is not FDA approved for children. You will see a mass exodus of kids being pulled from the district. You don't have the infrastructure in place to accommodate children in independent study now, how will you accommodate more children that choose to not be vaccinated? As a district, you preach equity. The majority of Sacramento County not vaccinated are in the black and brown community. You will single handedly be excluding a huge portion of this demographic from in person learning by requiring vaccines. Therefore, there will be more learning loss, more social issues, and more isolation. Please, think of the consequences of a vaccine mandate.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 9/16/2021 10:36:10 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
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Name:	Maggie Armstrong
Comment:	<p>Writing as parents of an Alice Birney second grader and community member to demand the superintendent and district use the \$319 million in covid-relief funds they've had since July 9th.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Update covid dashboard daily at minimum (San Juan district does three a day).-Testing weekly for ALL, students and staff.-Covid-safe poor air quality plan for distancing.-Bus windows open.-Monitoring eating/lunch distancing protocol. <p>In addition, it is inexcusable that no plan for distance learners, Independent Study, or students with IEPs WITH teacher interaction exists. Wasting time and money and not following evidence-based protocol will cause illness, death, and threatens our safety and well-being.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 9/16/2021 10:15:34 AM

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Name:	Kristen Merrill
Comment:	My family fully supports mandatory vaccinations and/or regular testing. We are required to do it in the workplace and our kids are in much tighter situations. We have experience in a neighbor school district with many of the teachers out currently due to being required to quarantine. In that situation our kids are better taught online. No one wants that!! Our kids need to live life in person! Life is not meant, nor is it healthy, to live in front of a screen. Many of us parents can attest to that ourselves. Let's keep our teacher and students healthy by requiring vaccines and/or regular testing. If we require our kids to take science, we need to to act on science.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 9/15/2021 10:37:29 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
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Name:	Jennifer Wallace
Comment:	Our children lost so much over this last year and a half. Vaccines for all would offer the fastest possible return to normalcy allowing the possibility of long anticipated field trips, social opportunities, and maybe even being able to get rid of masks sooner.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 9/15/2021 8:36:14 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
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Name:	Sherry Petta
Comment:	<p>I am strongly in support of mandatory vaccines for eligible students (and teachers!) following in the footsteps of LAUSD. This will ensure greater student safety, and will allow the opportunity for a return to more "normal" school events and functions for vaccinated students. Our children's mental health and social/emotional growth have been stunted during this pandemic- it hasn't just been about learning loss. Children 12 and up who are vaccinated should not have to pay the price of other families' poor healthcare decisions. Additionally, allowing unvaccinated children ages 12 and up to continue to attend school in person places other students and educators at risk and increases the likelihood of another shut down or outbreak in our schools. SCUSD closed it's doors entirely for a year when there were very low infection rates in children with the original COVID strain. Now we have the more highly contagious delta variant (with higher infection rates in children), and your doors are open to those who willfully refuse to do anything to be part of a solution in ending this pandemic. My child is vaccinated and deserves to attend in-person school safely. He also deserves the opportunity to attend his first school rally, dance, or sporting event IF the proper safety measures are in place. This starts with a vaccine mandate for eligible students and for all teachers.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 9/15/2021 2:11:57 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
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Name:	Jennifer Pierre
Comment:	<p>Please exercise school and broader community leadership and REQUIRE vaccination of all eligible persons, per applicable CA law, be fully vaccinated including against the COVID-19 virus. Our students and communities deserve to attend school in the safest possible environment. And it is a fact that vaccinations, along with other safety measures already in place in the district, prevent the spread of COVID. This prevention is critical to keep students and teachers in school.</p> <p>Also, what is the status of teacher vaccination efforts and what is the plan for enforcement?</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 9/15/2021 1:16:36 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
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Name:	Jenny Clare
Comment:	I support mandatory vaccinations for all students and staff. Our children lost so much last year and we need to do everything in our power to ensure that children are safe and in school.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 9/15/2021 12:27:43 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
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Name:	Alina Cervantes
Comment:	As a parent and community member I fully support mandatory vaccines for eligible students and staff. Please follow the science and help lessen the risk of infection and death for our students and teachers. My employer required mandatory vaccines for all students and teachers and the overwhelming majority support this. The anti -vaccine, anti-mask people may be the loudest voices at public hearings, but they do not represent the majority of SCUSD parents. Please move to require vaccines for all eligible students and staff.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 9/15/2021 12:15:38 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District

Board of Education Special Meeting

September 16, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Catherine Warmerdam
Comment:	<p>I support requiring vaccinations for all eligible students. This is a logical step based on everything we know about the highly contagious nature of Covid. It is consistent with other vaccine requirements that have long been in place in public schools. It is supported by scientific evidence.</p> <p>I also strongly support requiring routine testing of all staff, students and volunteers on campus, regardless of vaccination status. We are fortunate to be in a district where free Covid testing is available to staff and students. However, the current testing program has considerable flaws:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 – The opt-in system has resulted in the majority of kids not enrolling in routine testing, even though epidemiologists say such testing is a vital to preventing outbreaks. Testing should be mandatory or, at the very least, an opt-out program.2 – Communication about testing has been wildly insufficient. Families need better information about why we test, how to sign up, and what tests will be offered (rapid and/or PCR) and with what frequency.3 – The logistics for testing have been poorly executed. Just to give one example: the district gives school sites a PDF list of students who have signed up for testing instead of a live database that can be searchable by teacher or grade level. That makes much more work for school sites, especially elementary sites which need to know quickly and easily which kids to test. Plus, the PDF may be outdated by the time sites receive it. <p>Please improve the testing program. Make testing a requirement. Designate a place on the district website that clearly outlines how the program works. Communicate frequently about the value of testing. Improve the design of the registration form. Give schools live searchable data, not static lists. Enlist volunteers to sign families up for testing during drop-off and pickup. Make testing the robust program you promised it to be.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 9/15/2021 11:26:52 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District

Board of Education Special Meeting

September 16, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Elizabeth Campbell
Comment:	<p>As a parent I continue to have multiple concerns regarding safety protocols at schools.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Regular testing of all staff and students. I applaud the district for making testing available at all sites. One of my children's schools has implemented routine testing of those students who have registered. This is a great comfort and all schools should be doing this. The board needs to act as it is clear that the administration is not going to make this happen unless a resolution is passed to require it.2. Regular and timely updates of the school dashboard. Updating the dashboard twice a week is ridiculous and not up to par with what surrounding districts are doing. The dashboard needs to be updated at least daily if not more often.3. Training and consistency among school sites. The implementation of the decision forest varies wildly between sites. Clearly the health aides need more training in order to keep staff, students, and families safe.4. Premature relaxation of protocols while case numbers remain high and children remain unvaccinated. Why are water fountains reopened? Who demanded this? There are safer ways to make sure students can stay hydrated.5. As always, the core risk to our students – right now to their health and safety, but always to their academic progress and emotional well-being – is SCUSD's embarrassingly large class sizes. This remains the elephant in the room that we cannot talk about because the district has turned it into a labor issue instead of recognizing that it is a shameful abandonment of the students in your care. It was never okay for fourth graders to be crammed 32 to a room with an overworked teacher and no instructional aides. Under the present circumstances, this is absolutely criminal. Address this problem and you will solve so many others.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 9/15/2021 11:25:25 AM

From: G A Tubo ✓
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 8:49 PM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: comment on item 8.4 9/16/21

Warning! This message originates from OUTSIDE the District's email system. Please verify the sender and contents before opening attachments or clicking any links. Contact the Technology Services Help Desk at 916-643-9445 with any questions.

I hope to see SCUSD follow in the footsteps of Los Angeles USD to require covid-19 vaccines for all staff and all age-eligible students. It's encouraging to see that the teachers' union there supports covid-19 vaccine mandates for students and staff and I hope to see the same here. Public health is the science of protecting and improving the health of people and their communities. Regardless of some people's individual opinions of the value of vaccines, vaccines are very important for public health in our school communities.

Respectfully,
Alison French-Tubo
parent of two SCUSD students