

**ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION
DECLARING IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL BOARD AUTONOMY RELATED
TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUAL HEALTH AND SAFETY DECISIONS**

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education (ALSBOE) believes that the safety, security, and well-being of all Alabama students is a paramount duty of all educators; and

WHEREAS, many actions and policies related to the current unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic are best determined at the local education agency (LEA) level, based on constantly changing community circumstances and the ability to implement best practices as recommended by the Alabama Department of Public Health; and

WHEREAS, as part of its duty, the ALSBOE is charged with adopting policies to assist and support LEAs. The ALSBOE believes that each LEA is in the best position to make informed decisions on what is in the best interest of each community. The ALSBOE further believes that certain matters of health and safety policy should be reserved for LEAs to determine:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the ALSBOE affirms that certain decisions regarding highly specialized actions and policies, including but not limited to, the use of facial coverings, spacing of desks, arrangements of cafeteria and sports seating, and other factors related to students' health and safety, should continue to be made at the LEA level based on the best interest of the students in each individual community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the ALSBOE retains the right to set minimum standards of compliance for actions or policies that require long-term, statewide application, or for any other policy decision within its purview.

Done this 9th day of December 2021