



Elk County Catholic School System

To all ECCSS families who utilize public school transportation to bus your children to school:

School transportation is funded and handled by local school districts. Our students follow local district rules on buses. This includes all masking orders.

The CDC has directed that students wear masks on school buses, and all local districts are complying.

All districts are working through how to process exemptions to the masking order. They are not bound to accept exemptions issued by ECCSS, and their own exemption paperwork and protocols must be in order. If a bus driver or school administrator directs your child to wear a mask, your child must wear one.

If you would like to apply for an exemption to masking on the bus I can work with you to determine how to apply for one. It will very likely differ from district to district.

Please contact ECCSS President Sam MacDonald at macdonalds@eccss.org to initiate that process.

For now, I am asking you all to bring a high level of charity and patience to these situations. The public school administrators are facing the same issues we are, and are desperately trying to figure this out on the fly.

If you have a child who managed to wear a mask without incident on bus trips earlier this school year, it would be advisable for your child to continue doing so for at least the immediate future as we try to sort through these issues.

Again, the public schools are doing all they can. Please help them by only approaching them with situations that absolutely have to be addressed immediately. I can help you through that process once one is developed. But for now, there isn't one.

If your child does NOT have an exemption approved by the public school district administering the buses, you will have to arrange for alternative transportation until a proper exemption can be arranged.

The public superintendents and others in their districts have been strong allies of ECCSS throughout this pandemic. So have the busing companies.

Please keep them in mind and follow the proper channels for exemptions. I apologize that no process is yet in place, but we are working on developing one.

And again, please contact me with any urgent requests for exemptions that must be handled immediately. I will do all I can to expedite the process.

Thank you,

Sam MacDonald, President
Elk County Catholic School System