

Preamble for Proposed Legislation
California School Boards Authority
Local Control
February 2022

Agency: Newhall School District

Whereas, School District Governing Boards derive their authority from the California State Constitution, state legislation and judicial decisions;

Whereas, based on Education Code (EDC) the governing board in school districts across California may initiate and implement any program, activity which does not conflict with or for the purposes which school districts are established;

Whereas, the Legislature declares that school districts, county boards of education, and county superintendents of schools have diverse needs unique to their communities and programs. School districts, county boards of education, county superintendents of schools need the flexibility to address and create their own solutions to that meet the unique needs of their schools, school districts and communities.

Whereas, during the Covid-19 Pandemic, school districts, county boards of education, and county superintendents of schools have subscribed to masking and other health guidance based on federal, state, and county health guidelines in order for students to have access to safe and full in-person instruction;

Whereas, during the Covid-19 Pandemic local counties throughout California have adjusted Health Guidance based on indicators, conditions, and science, thus resulting in various safety guidance and practices in schools across the state which have been injurious to students, instruction, families, school district budgets, and school district operations;

Therefore, the Newhall School District Governing Board is asking for local control so that school districts, county boards of education, county superintendents of schools can have full and complete authority to develop and implement their own unique policies and practices in response to Covid-19 that meets the needs of their schools and communities, that allows for students to have access to safe schools and full in-person instruction. Policies and practices include, but are not limited to mask policies, social distancing, and quarantine that reflect science, local data, local conditions, and local indicators for keeping students in school for academic learning, and social and emotional growth.