

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Principal \_\_\_\_\_,

As the parent of \_\_\_\_\_ I am requesting 504 accommodations due to my child's inability to breathe freely in a mask. Section 504 provides for accommodations based on a person's physical or mental impairment which impairs a major life activity.

Section 504 defines a physical or mental impairment as: *any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting one or more of the following body systems: neurological; musculoskeletal; special sense organs; respiratory, including speech organs; cardiovascular; reproductive; digestive; genito-urinary; hemic and lymphatic; skin; and endocrine; or any mental or psychological disorder, such as intellectual disability, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness, and specific learning disabilities...*

And defines a major life activity as: *caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working.*

School districts must provide a reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities who have a medical condition, mental health condition or disability that limit or prevents them from wearing a face covering/mask. Federal laws, including Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, require schools to provide reasonable accommodations so that students, like my child, can access services available to others. If the school denies my request for a reasonable accommodation for my child, the school will be in violation of these laws. Guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the California Department of Public Health provide exemptions to face covering/mask requirements for students with disabilities, like my child.

During the time the school is evaluating our request, I expect that my child be afforded these reasonable accommodations in order to access a free and appropriate education despite their disability.

Furthermore, I do not want my child coerced, bullied, or pressured in any other way about their disability which would be a direct violation of their civil rights.

I look forward to working collaboratively with the school in order to develop a reasonable 504 plan which addresses my child's disability.

Sincerely,

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