At the special meeting of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) on August 24, 2021, the Board voted to declare “exigent circumstances” pursuant to the Student Learning Time (SLT) regulations, 603 CMR 27.08 (1), and authorized the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education to require masks for public school students (age 5 and above) and staff in all grades through at least October 1, 2021.

As of October 15, 2021, if a school demonstrates a vaccination rate of 80 percent or more of all students and staff in the school through an attestation form submitted to DESE, then vaccinated individuals in that school would no longer be subject to the mask requirement. In alignment with statewide guidance, unvaccinated students and staff are highly recommended to continue wearing masks.

On September 27, 2021, after consulting with medical experts and state health officials, the Commissioner extended the requirement through at least November 1, 2021. After further consultation with medical experts and state health officials, the Commissioner extended the mask requirement to February 28, 2022.

Schools and districts that choose to avail themselves of the 80 percent vaccination rate threshold should complete and return this attestation form to Rob Curtin (robert.c.curtin@mass.gov). Schools and districts should complete and return one form for each school that meets the 80 percent rate threshold within a district/network. The appropriate signatory must be an individual with the authority to attest to the information submitted for each school, such as the superintendent or executive director.

[ ] I confirm that the school identified below has met the 80 percent threshold rate per the guidelines set out in the DESE Policy on Vaccination Threshold Rate dated September 27, 2021 and updated on January 10, 2022.

Name of school/charter school/collaborative/other:

Name of district/network:

Name of individual completing the form:

Title of individual completing the form:

Signature of individual completing the form:

Date: