AN ACT

Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An act relating to the public school system, including certain provisions applicable as well to private and parochial schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the laws relating thereto," in school health services, providing for face coverings for certain students.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a section to read:

Section 1425. Face Coverings for Certain Students.--(a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, for the 2020-2021 school year, the governing authority of a school entity shall determine whether a face covering is required for students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade.

(b) If the governing authority of a school entity determines that a face covering is required under subsection (a), the governing authority of the school entity shall develop a policy including the circumstances students may remove their face coverings.
As used in this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

"Face covering" means a covering of the nose and mouth that is secured to the head with ties, straps or loops over the ears or is wrapped around the lower face or a face shield.

"Private academic nursery school" means a nursery school licensed or exempt from licensure under the act of January 28, 1988 (P.L. 24, No. 11), known as the "Private Academic Schools Act."

"School entity" means a school district, intermediate unit, career and technical center, charter school, regional charter school, cyber charter school, nonpublic or private school, Pre-K Counts program, Head Start program, early intervention program or private academic nursery school.

Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.