

UNION FORWARD

Focusing on Opportunities, Real World Application and Resilient Determination



Union School District's Continued Efforts for Safe In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

December 2023

Union School District Board of Education

Andrea Estell, BOE Chairperson
Amy Blank, BOE Vice Chairperson
Edward Fournier
James Kavanaugh
Emily Perkins
Matt Silbermann

Steven J. Jackopsic, Superintendent/Principal
sjackopsic@unionschool.net, 860-684-3146, ext. 103

COVID-19 Health and Safety Compliance Liaison
Name and Contact: Steven J. Jackopsic (Primary), Lois Demujian/LeeAnn Brothers (Secondary)

This draft plan was made available for public comment from all relevant stakeholders, including parents, students, community members, Board of Education and Union School staff. The plan will be reviewed at least every six months (December 2021, June 2022, December 2022, June 2023 and December 2023).

Public Comments from June 2021, June 2022, December 2022, June 2023 and December 2023 E-Blasts

- Concern over impact of lost instructional time with all safety measures and distance learning
- Concern over mask-wearing for all students and staff and mitigation strategies, specifically during lunch and snack

Message from the Superintendent

We are committed to the safety and well-being of our entire Union School Learning Community and look forward to the future as we work towards brighter days. We invite and encourage the involvement of students, parents and community members to work in partnership with us as we continue our efforts for a return to normalcy.

The Union School District is working to develop procedures and protocols to ensure a safe and secure return to in-person instruction this coming fall.

Local health indicators and trends will be monitored through collaboration with the Northeast District Department of Health (NDDH), the Connecticut Department of Health (DPH) and Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE), consistent with guidance issued by federal and state agencies.

Priorities	
23-24 School Year Learning Model	Communications Plan & Data Collection
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Guiding Principles</u></p> <p>The Union School Opening Plan for the 2023-2024 school year has been developed with an opportunity for public comment. Our plan is grounded in guiding principles outlined below by the Connecticut State Department of Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Safeguarding the health and safety of students and staff; ❑ Monitoring the school, students, and staff. ❑ Emphasizing equity, access, and support to our students and communities that are emerging from this historic disruption; ❑ Fostering strong two-way communication with our partners including families, educators, and staff; and ❑ Factoring into decisions the challenges to the physical safety, social-emotional well-being, and the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Communication of policies, protocols, and relevant information will be shared utilizing multiple means, as appropriate, which may include the following: the Black Board and Remind App Notification System, district website, email blast and social media. ❑ Ongoing surveys and Coffee Conversations may be used to gather feedback from stakeholders. ❑ Communications will be made available in the preferred language of families. ❑ Any time critical information needs will be made available to the community regarding policies or changes to the health data. This information will be

mental health needs of our students when they are not in school.	disseminated utilizing any/all of the methods detailed above.
--	---

Operations Plan			
Facilities	Daily Operations		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor instruction will occur at the teacher’s discretion. <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Systems</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Comply w/ DPH for building water systems ❖ The ventilation system will be consistently monitored and maintained. Guiding Document: <i>Guidance for School Systems for the Operation of Central and non-Central Ventilation Systems during the COVID-19 Pandemic</i> The ventilation system will be operated at full capacity one week prior to the reopening of school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Deliveries will be dropped off at the front door. Contractors will follow all applicable school rules and be scheduled, as feasible, outside of school hours. <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Child Nutrition</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Union School will continue to determine eligibility for and make available free milk to all eligible students. <input type="checkbox"/> US Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) regulations and policies for milk will be followed. </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Child Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Union School will continue to determine eligibility for and make available free milk to all eligible students. <input type="checkbox"/> US Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) regulations and policies for milk will be followed.
Child Nutrition			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Union School will continue to determine eligibility for and make available free milk to all eligible students. <input type="checkbox"/> US Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) regulations and policies for milk will be followed. 			
Transportation	Transportation		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> High school students riding the bus may have assigned seats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Students may be assigned seats. 		

Health Practices and Protocols
Cleaning, Disinfecting and Preventative Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> At least 1x/day, cleaning and disinfection of restrooms. <input type="checkbox"/> All students and staff will-follow all state/local quarantine protocols as appropriate. <input type="checkbox"/> All cleaning products utilized on surfaces should follow Connecticut School Green Cleaning Law. <input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning products should be utilized in well ventilated areas and should follow the manufacturers stated instructions for use (contact time, surface application). <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/guardians should may send in an extra set of clothes for their

The Superintendent/Principal reserves the right to adjust/revise these protocols at any time due to changing guidance from various organizations including but not limited to: State of CT, local health department, CDC, etc. The Superintendent/Principal will update the Board of Education regarding any changes at the next scheduled BOE meeting.

- child.
- The Union School District will provide soap, hand sanitizer (at least 60% ethyl alcohol or 70% isopropyl alcohol), paper towels, disinfectant wipes and face coverings as needed.
- Touch-free paper towel dispensers will be provided in all restrooms throughout the school
- ~~Touchless~~ hand sanitizers will be located throughout the building for ease of access for students and staff.
- Student attendance will follow CSDE guidelines.
- Staff will be provided with reasonable accommodations and leave time as specified in accordance with any collective bargaining agreement, BOE policies and federal and state laws.

Reporting Illnesses and Addressing Vulnerable Populations

- Students and staff may-be advised to remain home from school or work if they present symptoms (fever of 100, chills, uncontrolled new cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing or new loss of taste/smell) pertinent to COVID-19, consistent with applicable state and federal guidance.
- The school nurse in each building will be the contact person for reporting staff and student illness.
- Appropriate immunizations and health assessment documentation should be in place prior to school year.

Health Monitoring Plan

Planning and Distribution of Information

- The district will work with the CSDE and NDDH to provide vaccination opportunities as available.
- Parents and staff should notify school if they are sick with Covid-19 related symptoms.
- School will maintain a template document to report and track cases at each school site for staff and students.
- The school will maintain all information about the employee or student illness as part of medical records. The teacher may consult with nurse first via phone before sending student to the nurse.
- Staff will be provided with a “health kit” for minor situations so students may avoid nurses’ office.

Containment Plan (see Appendix IV for specific scenarios)

- If a student or staff member is experiencing Covid-19 related symptoms, they should immediately go to the school nurse.
- The response team will consist of the school nurse(s) and Superintendent/Principal.
- If a child has a temperature above 100 degrees, the parent/care givers will be required to pick up in a timely manner.

Academics

Special Education & English Learners

- Administration and staff will work with families to individualize instruction/supports to service students based on current IEP or EL needs.
- The district will comply with all federal and state mandates and statutes.
- The Superintendent/Principal will collaborate with the special education case managers to determine if students with disabilities are unable to access the plan.
- Special education programs may be allowed some flexibility consistent with applicable state and federal guidelines as long as the programs follow standards and public health strategies (hygiene, social distancing, and cleaning/sanitizing.)
- Communication will occur with families of students with a high level of need to develop transition plans to assist them in their return to the school building. The use of social stories, visual cues, and other developmentally appropriate strategies can be used to reinforce these new concepts and protocols.
- For students who need physical assistance with feeding, toileting or activities of daily living, protocols will be established and staff training will occur around safety.
- For students who exhibit significant behaviors that require de-escalation strategies and emergency safety procedures, protocols will be established and staff training will occur around safety.

Assessment

The school will need to prioritize strategies for assessing the learning, gaps, and areas of emphasis for student instruction. Assessments should minimize testing times, increase instruction time, empower teachers, prompt vertical communication among teachers, use available information and implement differentiated instruction, personalized learning and formative assessment practices.

Family and Student Engagement

Family Support/Communication & Social Emotional Learning and Mental Health

- Family engagement programs will continue to be implemented to support families with resources and supports.
- Union School's plan will be made available to the community via the Union School website as well as hard copy upon request.
- A counselor will be available upon request by parents.
- Ongoing Coffee Conversations may also be held throughout the year.

Staffing and Personnel

Certification and Personnel Planning

- Staff will be provided with reasonable accommodations and leave time as specified in accordance with any collective bargaining agreement, BOE policies and federal and state laws.

Appendix III-See CSDE Addendum #5 (Quarantining and isolation shall be done consistent with applicable guidance (and which may be dependent on vaccination status).

Appendix IV

If/Then Scenarios if Confirmed Cases(s)

The Union School District will follow appropriate state and local quarantine protocols.

- Contract-tracing will not be conducted.
- Students/staff who test positive for Covid-19 should isolate for five days. They may return to school with a mask on Day #6 if symptoms improve and are fever-free, without medication, for at least 4 hours.