

## Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan (ARP Act)



Entity ID	CTDS	LEA NAME
4277	070462000	Union Elementary School District

How the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the following safety recommendations established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

CDC Safety Recommendations	Has the LEA Adopted a Policy? (Y/N)	Describe LEA Policy:
Universal and correct wearing of masks  R=Revised	Yes	Mitigation revised to make masking optional while on school or District property, this aligns with HB 2616 & 2453. Union ESD will continue to provide face masks free of cost for any individual who wants to continue wearing a mask for close contacts and return from isolation.
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	No	Through our acceleration practice we have worked to keep class sizes low, with a goal of 25 students in a classroom.
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	No	Frequent hand washing/cleaning will be encouraged at regular intervals throughout the day with both soap and water or hand sanitizer. Instructions for hand washing include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand sanitizing stations will be available at every school site in the high-traffic areas.</li> <li>• All classrooms will have access to handwashing and students will be instructed to use soap and water, and scrub for 20 seconds, followed by rinsing.</li> <li>• Classrooms without handwashing stations in them will have access to a minimum 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer.</li> </ul>
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	No	Enhanced Ventilation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued air quality will be maintained by cleaning all HVAC unit coils and changing air filters as scheduled.</li> <li>• Updated MERV-3 filters have been installed in our A/C Units.</li> </ul>
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	No	Following current Center for Disease Control (CDC) and county guidance.
Diagnostic and screening testing	No	

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Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	Yes	To remain current on communicating about vaccination benefit events to support our community with getting vaccinated.
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Yes	We have reasonable accommodations through chronic medical forms available through school policy, reasonable accommodations as a part of a 504, and/or an IEP.
Coordination with State and local health officials	Yes	UESD coordinates with Maricopa County health officials.

How the LEA will ensure **continuity of services**, including but not limited to services to address **students' academic needs** and **students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs**, which may include **student health and food services**

### How the LEA will Ensure Continuity of Services?

**Student:** To ensure continuity of services, students have access to counselors, health partners and develop skills through skills/expectation activities in the classroom aligned with Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS). For our students' academic success and student well-being, Union ESD offers students In-Person learning model for the 2023-24 school year.

**Resources:** Union ESD provides families and students with vaccination information and resources such as masks to return after 5 days of isolation. We partner with Valley of the Sun United Way (VSUW) to provide access to early childhood care, Pre-School services for students as families. We partner with Lifeline PCS for behavioral health services for students and families. 21<sup>st</sup> Century which includes tutoring.

**Staff:** To ensure our essential workforce and continuity of services staff with mental health we have Employee Assistance Program which is ComPsych through Union Elementary School District medical benefits of Kairos. Union ESD also uses substance abuse and mental health service administration (SAMASHA) resource for our staff. Staff that are deemed a close contact can perform their duties while non-symptomatic with use of the heightened screener.

### Students' Needs:

Academic Needs	<p>Safety, student well-being needs, and accelerating learning were the top three concerns of our families. In response to our student achievement and through the strategic focus of creating opportunity to learn for all students. We have emphasized our focus on accelerating learning for all children through lower class sizes and our new English Language Arts adoption for our Pre-School through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.</p> <p>Breakfast will be served in the classroom between arrival time and school start time. To ensure we maximize learning opportunity, school will begin promptly at school start time.</p> <p>Elementary K-6 Instructional Minutes  Skills/Expectations 30 minutes  English Language Arts (Reading, Writing, Language) 2.5 hours  Mathematics 1.5 hours  Social Studies &amp; Science 1 hour  Specials 40 minutes  Lunch 40 minutes  Total 7 hours</p> <p>Middle School 7-8 Instructional Minutes by Content</p>
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	<p>Skills/Expectations 30 minutes</p> <p>English Language Arts (Reading &amp; Writing) 60–75 minutes</p> <p>Mathematics 60-75 minutes</p> <p>Social Studies 60-75 minutes</p> <p>Science 60-75 minutes</p> <p>Specials 40 minutes</p> <p>Lunch with Socialization 30 minutes</p> <p>Total 7 hours</p>
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	<p>All schools have a student support team consisting of a school counselor, interventionist, and access to Lifeline PCS support to address skills/expectation instruction of students. Skills/Expectations are built into the daily schedule for all students.</p> <p>Union Elementary School District has school counselor/social worker at each site assisting with behavioral health needs &amp; to connect families to community resources.</p>
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)	<p>Breakfast &amp; Lunch Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food &amp; Nutrition Services will provide meals or students may bring their lunch to school.</li> </ul>
<b>Staff Needs:</b>	
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	UESD partners with ComPsych for Employee Assistance Program and Behavioral Health Services to help support staff's emotional or behavioral health needs and to connect staff to community resources.
Other Needs	<p>Employee protocols are established based on community monitoring that reveals increased levels of community spread of COVID19. These practices are put in place as part of a general scale-up of operations.</p>

The LEA must **regularly, but no less frequently than every six months** (taking into consideration the timing of significant changes to CDC guidance on reopening schools), **review and, as appropriate, revise its plan** for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services **through September 30, 2023**

**Date of Revision** August 28, 2023

### Public Input

Describe the process used to seek public input, and how that input was taken into account in the revision of the plan:	<p>UESD offered the public two opportunities for input and information regarding UESD's COVID19 response. Originally UESD offered 3 Town Halls 2 In-Person and 1 Virtual in July of 2020. For the 2021-22 school year in-person town hall was held on June 29, 2021. A virtual town hall was held on July 1, 2021.</p> <p>The primary input from families through town halls and surveys focused on the health and safety of students and staff, student well-being, and accelerating learning. The UESD Back to School Plan is a proactive approach which reflects the input received from the public.</p> <p>Union ESD provides updates in our Governing Board Meetings with an opportunity for public comment and our Board to revise our plan.</p> <p>Public Board Meeting provided opportunities for engagement on March 14, 2023 and September, 14, 2023.</p>
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## **U.S. Department of Education Interim Final Rule (IFR)**

### **(1) LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services**

- (a) An LEA must describe in its plan under section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services—
  - (i) how it will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC:
    - (A) Universal and correct wearing of masks.
    - (B) Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (*e.g.*, use of cohorts/podding)
    - (C) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.
    - (D) Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.
    - (E) Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments.
    - (F) Diagnostic and screening testing.
    - (G) Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.
    - (H) Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.
    - (I) Coordination with State and local health officials.
  - (ii) how it will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.
- (b)(i) During the period of the ARP ESSER award established in section Start Printed Page 212022001(a) of the ARP Act, an LEA must regularly, but no less frequently than every six months (taking into consideration the timing of significant changes to CDC guidance on reopening schools), review and, as appropriate, revise its plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services.
  - (ii) In determining whether revisions are necessary, and in making any revisions, the LEA must seek public input and take such input into account
  - (iii) If at the time the LEA revises its plan the CDC has updated its guidance on reopening schools, the revised plan must address the extent to which the LEA has adopted policies, and describe any such policies, for each of the updated safety recommendations.
- (c) If an LEA developed a plan prior to enactment of the ARP Act that meets the statutory requirements of section 2001(i)(1) and (2) of the ARP Act but does not address all the requirements in paragraph (a), the LEA must, pursuant to paragraph (b), revise and post its plan no later than six months after receiving its ARP ESSER funds to meet the requirements in paragraph (a).
- (d) An LEA's plan under section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services must be—
  - (i) In an understandable and uniform format;
  - (ii) To the extent practicable, written in a language that parents can understand or, if it is not practicable to provide written translations to a parent with limited English proficiency, be orally translated for such parent; an
  - (iii) Upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent