



## Overview on Return 2021 and Federal Stimulus Safe Return/Continuity of Services and ESSER III

The following is posted as a requirement of the American Rescue Plan Act for the Union R-XI School District to qualify for federal stimulus funds that are a part of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III).

During the 2020-2021 school year, the Union R-XI School District provided uninterrupted instruction in-person for all students wishing to attend in-person as well as virtual instructional options for students wishing to do so. See the district's Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan (SRCSP), also known as the [Union R-XI 2020-2021 Re-Entry Plan](#).

The district's primary objective for the 2021-2022 school year is to resume normal school operations. Our goals are:

- Pending Health Department support; prepare for students and staff to return for the 2021-2022 school year in a "masks optional" environment where those who choose to wear masks are comfortable and those who don't are safe.
- Implement and revise the [Union R-XI 2020-2021 Re-Entry Plan](#) (SRCSP), including health protocols, sanitation protocols and quarantine practices. Revisions will be made in consideration of current pandemic conditions and in collaboration with the Franklin County Health Department.
- Continue to review the SRCSP at least every six months and revise as necessary.
- Continue to provide high quality in-person instruction for our students 5 days a week.
- Continue to provide high quality virtual instruction where it has been determined to be in the best interest of the student. This determination is made through an application process and through consultation between educators, parents/guardians and students.
- Continue to provide accommodations as necessary or as mandated by a student's Individualized Education Plan.

Union R-XI encourages employees and families to get vaccinated against COVID-19 because fully vaccinated individuals are not required to quarantine when exposed to a positive case. This helps ensure continuity of instruction. Union R-XI School District staff members were provided with an opportunity to receive their vaccination during the employee vaccination clinic on Friday, March 18th. With multiple vaccine resources in the community, the district has no plans at this time to coordinate or provide vaccinations for students. Similarly, there are many community resources for screening and testing services. The district has no plans to provide these services in our schools for students.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) guidance states that return-to-school plans adopted as part of a public board meeting meet federal stimulus funding requirements for public input. The Union R-XI School District adopted the ReEntry Plan for 2020 by consensus at the August 3, 2020 board meeting after listening to perspective of our community. Dialogue with our community has continued at public school board meetings.

**2021-2022 Enrollment:** All students have already been enrolled for in-person instruction for the upcoming school year. However, we understand that a few families may still seek a virtual learning option for their student. Interested families are asked to complete that process as soon as possible. Note: all students choosing a virtual learning option for the upcoming school year must apply, meet the eligibility requirements, and be approved to enroll in virtual learning for the 2021-2022 school year.