

Union-Scioto Local School District

2021-2022 School year Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plans

This time last year school districts and communities were working tirelessly to put together a return to school plan that met all the requirements and protocols to educate students in the safest most effective way given the unique circumstances and unknowns of a pandemic. Our school district's plan allowed for our students and staff to be in person at the beginning of the school year and all year long. We are thankful, proud, and better for our decision to meet the challenge and educate our students in person each and every day.

Our plan for the 2021-2022 school year is to be in person again beginning on Thursday, August 19, 2021. The district has purchased the necessary amounts of sanitizer, sanitize stations, cleaning and sanitizing equipment, and has learned a tremendous amount over the last year. We will utilize our 2020-2021 reopening plan if needed anytime in the upcoming school year. The 2020-2021 reopening plan can be accessed on our district website. Additional purchases and staffing were made to improve safety, social distancing, sanitizing, ventilation, and instructional delivery to our students. We will continue to meet health goals established in the health and safety guidance for Ohio K-12 schools and consult with our local health department, the Ohio Department of Health, and our governor. We will comply with all health orders to ensure the safety of our students and staff with a focus on providing the best educational experience possible for our students and families. We will review our plan at least every grading period or more, if necessary, for any updates or adjustments.

The district provided employees on-site COVID vaccinations to help prevent the spread of COVID. We will provide this service once again if booster shots are needed. Any student or staff that is confirmed to have COVID-19 will be reported to the Ross County Board of Health.

The District will ensure that its interventions will address all areas of needs of all students to the best of its ability. The District is currently analyzing available data on students who chose the online option of learning during this past school year. Additional strategies and course structure for the new school year are being developed.

Smaller class sizes at the high school level are being incorporated in the areas of reading and writing. The District is currently working with a local agency to develop a health and wellness clinic to address Social Emotional Learning ("SEL") concerns. It is also looking to provide professional development for personnel on how to recognize and intervene when SEL issues arise. Additional support will be provided as the District continues to analyse additional data points.

The District determined its most important educational needs via student attendance records in school and online, assessments, universal screener, progress monitoring, feedback and real-time instruction. It was also determined that additional professional development for staff is needed to provide the most effective online instruction for those students choosing this format.

By utilizing these funds, the District will be able to begin immediately providing summer instruction and support as well as providing professional development for teachers and administrators during the summer months continuing throughout the next school year and beyond.

The District will use funds to address the academic impact of lost instructional time by focusing on specific strategies/services. After-school tutoring is being utilized currently and will continue throughout the next school year and future years as the data dictates. Each building in the District is providing summer school and/or summer camps to address academic weaknesses and to also provide enrichment. Strategies to provide additional tutoring services within our

after-school program are being determined. Additional interventions will be considered as instructional data become available.

The District is addressing learning loss predominantly through the use of assessment tools that will diagnose the specific areas of academic weaknesses. It will use various assessment types such as universal screeners, diagnostic assessments and progress monitoring to provide appropriate interventions. These assessment results will be shared with families so that they can know and understand any learning loss their student may have. The District will provide additional information to families on how it will be supporting their students to close the specific gap. The District will evaluate and revisit its progress and strategies to determine its effectiveness and next steps. Professional development will play a key role in helping teachers and administrators to learn additional strategies to better meet the needs of their students. Curriculum is being evaluated as to its effectiveness and a determination will be made as to whether additional or new curriculum will be needed.

While the district firmly believes that in-person learning is the most effective method and will do everything possible to maintain in-person learning, on-line virtual classes will also still be available. Providing additional resources and tools for staff and students to improve learning opportunities is essential. Wireless capability is being strengthened through the purchase of additional wireless capability. Additional Chromebooks are being purchased to allow students to use at home when necessary and to improve the school-to-home connection.

The district will utilize funds to purchase additional school busses that will allow for social distancing. The busses purchased are also being equipped with ventilation that reduces the spread of COVID. The District will continue to sanitize the busses after each use and provide masks to student riders and staff if needed. The district will continue to consult the Ross County Health Department in developing and amending its safety plan to allow for in-person operation as it has throughout the pandemic.

The district is replacing and repairing the roof at the elementary building to control leaks that could lead to mold and other ventilation issues that could aid the spread of COVID. Windows will be replaced to aid in ventilation issues within the buildings.

The district will work to maintain safety at all facilities. Specifically, the district will be procuring paving projects at the bus garage, high school, administrative lot and athletic complex. This repaving will eliminate gravel, mud, and potholes that could result in falls and injuries. This will also drastically improve the traffic flow, additional parking, and safer walkway for students, staff and parents.

The district will repair a bridge walkway at the elementary campus. This is a safety issue and the repair will make the walkway more conducive to the traffic from students, staff, and parents reporting to and dismissing from school as well as all events and activities. The District will also install fencing to prevent unauthorized activities that could result in injuries to children.

Additional maintenance cleaning equipment and a maintenance truck to haul supplies will be purchased to allow for more efficient and effective cleaning. Individual PPE supplies such as sanitizer will continue to be available to students in all areas of the district.

The district will continue to employ 4 teachers which will also maintain continuity of services by maintaining class sizes. An additional Maintenance employee has been added to ensure operations are maintained. Funds will be provided for Athletics and Food Services to ensure those activities will continue unimpeded. Further, the district will upgrade dugouts, fields and bleachers where needed. These items need to be upgraded to allow for the safety of our students and community and to increase the opportunity for social distancing during all events. Roofing at the wrestling complex will

also be repaired. This will help prevent leaks and allow for better ventilation which will help prevent mold and an environment that would be susceptible to the COVID -19 virus.

The District will purchase maintenance/cleaning equipment such as scrubbers to ensure the school buildings are properly sanitized and clean to help prevent the spread of viruses, etc. We encourage all stakeholders to provide any input in our plan moving forward. This input is welcomed at any time and throughout the 2021-2022 school year. We have specifically provided an opportunity for input at our next regular scheduled board meeting on Monday, June 14 at 6:00pm. Please contact me with any questions or concerns at 740-773-4102 or mthornsberry@gotanks.org. Looking forward to a great school year!! Go Tanks!