

American Rescue Plan Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

Urbana City School District IRN 044941

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) provides federal resources to support states and local school districts. Recent federal guidance clarifies that districts submit to the state of Ohio a plan that fulfills the requirement that districts publish local “Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plans.” Each district school must post the plan on its local website and submit the plan to the Ohio Department of Education. This overall plan is being built upon existing district plans that address many of the elements of the federal requirements.

The Urbana City School District has organized this plan to include the current and prior health and safety plans developed in collaboration with the Champaign County Health District. Since the district already has continuous improvement plans, COVID Safety Plans, and other similar plans that encompass aspects of these requirements, they are listed below and comprise the requirements to address Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan. Those previously developed plans together with the below aspects meet the relevant requirements of the federal assurances.

Local Use of ARP Funds

In consultation with the local health department and using guidance from the Ohio Department of Health and the CDC, the district will continue to implement additional cleaning and sanitation procedures, maintain distancing requirements, and provide PPE and other protection measures when appropriate, needed, or requested. As additional regulations are developed and published, the district will evaluate the best way to implement the guidance. The district was able to successfully maintain in-person learning during the 2020 - 2021. A remote option was offered to families as well. The plan this year is full in-person, normalized learning.

The district will implement the evidence based interventions developed as a part of the district root cause analysis and the One Needs Plan in order to address learning loss due to lost instructional time. Additionally the district plans to add staff to assist with intervention, reduce class sizes, and provide small group and individualized instruction and implement afterschool tutoring and summer programs.

Remaining ESSER funds will be spent in order to ensure a safe, productive learning environment including HVAC and outdoor learning area upgrades. Due to the return of students from remote learning and the desire to maintain safety and distancing during transportation, the district will investigate the purchase of an additional bus. Devices will be purchased to ensure access to technology. If families are unable to secure appropriate internet access, the district will provide hot spots in order to facilitate the completion of homework. The district will continue with the practice of increased cleaning and sanitation protocols and hire an additional custodian. A technology support person will be added to assist with the increased number of devices and troubleshooting. In order to implement safety standards, additional classroom and learning area furnishings will be purchased to adhere to distancing and safety recommendations.

A Plan in two Parts: The plan, as required, has two major component parts:

- **PART I - Safe Return to In-Person Instruction**
- **PART II - Continuity of Services Plan**

PART I – Safe Return to In-Person Instruction

Urbana City Schools is a small city/rural district that educates students preschool through 12th grade at two school campus sites. All students in grades K-12 have access to computer devices and those in grades 2-12 are able to take them home and use them during remote learning. A good portion of our staff and students used Google Classroom prior to the pandemic school closing in the Spring of 2020. The remainder of the staff has moved to using Google Classrooms and other online learning management systems. Therefore, we are able to quickly move to remote online learning for students when this instructional format is required due to pandemic conditions.

During the 2020-2021 school year, Urbana City Schools offered students both in-person and online instruction. About 20% of the student population selected fully online instruction that was provided by District staff through the Urbana Virtual Academy (UVA). Students attending online were allowed to return to in-person based on the needs of each student. The Urbana City School District provided in-person instruction throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

A. Optional wearing of masks

Staff and students will be permitted to wear a mask if they deem it appropriate. As of now, the CDC and State and Local Health Departments have lifted all mask and social distancing requirements that impact school districts. Staff and students not vaccinated will be informed of the current CDC recommendations to wear a mask, but they will not be required to wear a mask.

B. Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/pods)

Urbana City Schools will follow the Ohio Department of Health and the Champaign County Health District guidance on physical distancing.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

The district promotes behaviors that reduce the spread of COVID-19 such as encouraging staff and students to stay home when appropriate; encouraging the practice of hand hygiene by placing sanitizing stations with alcohol-based hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol): in each classroom; and at entrances and exits of buildings. Urbana City Schools will continue with current hand washing and respiratory etiquette guidelines.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Urbana City Schools will continue with current cleaning and filter replacement practices and guidelines. Early in the 2020-21 school year the District implemented bi-polar ionization technology in both of the new school buildings to decrease the level of harmful germs, viruses and bacteria to improve indoor air quality. Classrooms and busses will be disinfected as often as possible with appropriate disinfectant.

E. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments

Urbana City Schools will follow guidance from the Champaign County Health District for contract tracing and quarantine. The district also engages the expertise of the school nurses on the importance of contact tracing.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

Urbana City School provides information for workers and families to be able to access COVID diagnostic testing. An up-to-date list of testing locations can be found at the Ohio Department of Health Website. The linked ODH map shows COVID-19 testing sites throughout Ohio which are a combination of private companies and retail sites, Community Health Centers, and pop-up sites that offer COVID testing.

- [Ohio Testing and Community Health Centers](#)

In addition staff and families are encouraged to contact the local health department of residence for additional testing resources that can be found on their website:

- [Champaign County Health District](#)

G. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible.

All educators and staff were offered vaccinations through the Champaign County Health District. The District also hosted a vaccination clinic for the Champaign County Health District this past spring in the Urbana High School Moss Gymnasium. This clinic targeted students and families within the District.

H. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies

Reasonable accommodations are provided for individuals that the CDC identifies as having a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 such as medically fragile students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), students with complex disabilities with IEPs, or students who require accommodations under a Plan in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (504 Plan).

PART II – Continuity of Services Plan

The continuity of services plan addresses the students' academic needs, and student and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services. The plan is intended to coordinate with the previously developed plan linked at:

- [Urbana Learning Recovery and Extended Learning Plan](#)

The Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan will be published on the district website at www.UrbanaCitySchools.org. Upon request, and if necessary, an individual with a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act will be provided information in an alternative format that is accessible for that parent or guardian.

- **Student Services and Accommodations for Children with Disabilities**

Supporting the academic and social-emotional growth of all students remains a priority as we recover from the pandemic. Urbana City Schools provides interventions to address the academic and behavioral/social-emotional needs of all students. Students needing interventions are identified through a screening process. Interventions are designed and implemented and monitored for effectiveness in order to support growth in targeted areas.

- **Health Services**

Urbana City Schools is served by a health clinic at each school building. School nurses in each building will ensure that student health needs are met. All of our nursing staff follow Department of Health and CDC Guidelines related to COVID-19 and will assist administrators and staff in understanding and implementing those guidelines.

- **Family Support Services**

The impact of COVID-19 on families can be significant and some families may be facing challenges they haven't faced previously. Our school nurse and director of Special Education Services will work together to help connect families with resources in the community and ensure that basic student needs are met.

- **Food Service**

As required, the District will continue to make food service accessible to all students in the District. The District will ensure and provide continuity of food service programs with appropriate staffing.

- **Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)**

The Urbana City Schools Emergency Operation Plan contains a Continuation of Operations Plan (COOP) that addresses when the facility is unavailable for an extended period of time, typically weeks or months. Plans may vary depending upon the circumstance and duration of unavailability and addresses short term and long term building unavailability. This could be activated if the need were to occur.

Plan Review and Public Input:

The district will periodically review all key aspects of this plan at least every six months for the duration of the ARP ESSER grant period, and revise the plan as appropriate. Plan review will include, but is not limited to, collaborative work by the board of education, district administrative team, district leadership team building leadership teams, and teacher-based-teams.

The district will also take into account whether revisions are necessary based on feedback at public board meetings and correspondence with parents and local health officials.

This plan is available on the district website at <https://www.urbanacityschools.org/Content/290>. Public input into the development of the plan, and any revisions, can be made through email to Charles Thiel, Superintendent (charles.thiel@urbanacityschools.org).