

Unity School District's Plan on the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

Introduction

This document is intended to meet the federal statutory requirement that, within 30 days of receiving ARP ESSER Unity School District's allocation (anticipated May 24th), the Unity School District shall publish the Unity School District's Plan on the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services, which is often called a "school district reopening plan."

The CARES Act, CRRSA Act, and ARP Act provide vital support to States, LEAs, and schools as they work to reopen schools safely, maximize in-person instructional time, and address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on students, educators, and families.

The Unity School District has taken actions to ensure the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and division staff during its full return to in-person instruction

I. General Information

LEA Name: **Unity School District (SAU #6)**

Date of Publication: **June 21, 2021**

II. Transparency and Accessibility

1. This plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services was published and made publicly available online on the SAU#6 Website – www.sau6.org. The plan was also sent home via email to all Unity School District families
2. Before making the plan publicly available, the Unity School District sought public comment on the plan and took such comments into account in the development of the plan. We developed a back to school committee which include – parents, community members, teachers, staff, students, administration, and community stakeholders. We also used current guidance from state and local partners.
3. The plan is in an understandable and uniform format: Yes, the plan is available in a PDF format on our SAU6 website.
4. The plan, to the extent practicable, is written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable, orally translated: Yes, the plan is on the SAU6 website which has a variety of languages available for translations. If parents/guardians or community members had any

questions regarding the plan, they could reach out to building level administration or the Superintendent, as well as the Assistant Superintendent. We also have a special education staff and english as a second language teacher available for translation.

5. The plan, upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, is provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent: Yes, The plan was put onto our website. We also have our special education teachers, english as a second language teacher available to assist with parents/guardians

III. Health and Safety

1. How the Unity School District will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and Unity School District's staff:

Description during SY20-21: _Our schools followed the NH Back to School Guidance and well as the guidance from NH DHHS and NH Public Health

We had a Covid Coordinator that met weekly with DHHS and NH Public Health to discuss NH Covid guidance and protocols. Due to the size of our school, we were able to open to 100% in person learning, 5 days a week. We did have 5 families that wanted 100% remote learning, mid year, Unity had 1 family which continued to the end of 2020-2021 school, which we did provide with the assistance of the Unity School District.

In our buildings, we put safety precautions in place

1. Child's/staff temperature check (if symptoms or temp greater than 100 they were sent home until a negative COVID test)
2. We did not allow students or staff to attend work or school with COVID symptoms (they were required to stay home until a negative COVID test)
3. Limited movement throughout the building
4. We stated with 6ft social distancing which changed to 3ft per the State of NH Guidelines
5. Student's desk all faced the front of the room
6. Students had assigned seats in their classrooms, in the lunchroom, and on the school bus
7. We had outside classrooms
8. Occupancy limits in certain areas
9. Individual supplies in individual storage containers for students
10. No sharing (food, drinks, supplies)
11. Traffic patterns to control the flow and direction of student/staff traffic
12. Utilized plexiglass shielding (lunch, snack, small groups, main office)
13. Facemask for students and staff are worn during school hours, while riding the bus, during recess, while playing sports
14. We provided face shields
15. We provided breakfast and lunch for all students (remote and face-to-face)

16. Water fountains are not in use
17. Students used lockers but were socially distanced (3 lockers in between use and distanced with homerooms)
18. We limited the number of students in the bathroom
19. Everything was cleaned and sanitized throughout the day
20. We provided hand sanitizer to all classroom teachers and had it available throughout the buildings
21. We promoted handwashing and good hygiene
22. We did not allow outside visitors into our buildings (all meetings were held remotely)
23. We developed a multi tiered system of supports that addressed emotional and behavioral health
24. Students riding the bus were not allowed to sit together unless they were from the same household
25. We created an isolation room in the nurse's office for symptomatic students
26. Positive cases, we followed the plan from DHHS for contact tracing, quarantining and isolation
27. When possible, we had staff members open the windows in the buildings and on the bus to allow for the air to circulate
28. We suspended all field trips, assemblies, clubs, dances, concerts, or other large group gatherings, we recorded these events for families and community members to view
29. To support families, we offered workshops in areas such as Google Classroom, Seesaw, Remote Learning Strategies, Chromebook 101, Social and Emotional Wellbeing for Students, Families, and Staff etc.

Description during SY21-22: Our schools will continue to follow the NH Back to School Guidance as well as the guidance from NH DHHS and NH Public Health

2. The Unity School District's adoption of the following NH Guidelines/CDC health and safety strategies are described below:

a. Universal and correct wearing of masks:

During SY20-21: Yes :

During SY21-22: Optional - Due to the low number of students enrolled in our school, we will not need masks but will have 6ft social distancing. This is unless the guidelines change.

Description of both SYs: Students and staff are aware of the [correct use of cloth face coverings](#), including wearing cloth face coverings over the nose and mouth and securely around the face. Ineffective masks that allow unfiltered exhaled air to escape are NOT an acceptable form of source control (e.g. masks with vents/exhalation valves; gaiters, buffs, or bandanas that are not properly secured to cover the entire nose and mouth)

1. 2020-21 Students and Staff will be required to wear face masks during school hours

2021-22 Optional for students and staff

2. 2020-2021 Students and Staff will be required to wear face mask while riding the bus
2021-22: Masks on the bus and in common areas, i.e. hallways.
3. Students and Staff were required to wear face masks during recess - As of June 4, 2021, with the guidance of the State of NH students and staff wearing of face masks while outside is optional.
4. Students and staff will be required to wear a face mask while outside - As of June 4, 2021, with the guidance of the State of NH students and staff wearing a face mask while outside is optional.
5. Face masks must be worn according to the CDC guidelines.
 1. Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin
 2. Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face
 3. Make sure you can breathe easily
6. 2020-21 Parents/guardians are to please make sure his/her child arrives at school wearing a mask.

2021-22 Optional if students are using 6ft social distancing

7. There will be teacher directed mask breaks throughout the day, if students are wearing mask
8. Student face coverings will need to follow the dress code

b. Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding and modifying facilities):

During SY20-21: Yes

During SY21-22: Yes

Description of both SYs: Social distancing, also called “physical distancing,” means keeping a safe space between yourself and other people who are not from your household.

1. Following the DHHS recommendations, classroom tables/desks will be spaced three to six feet apart. We are trying to be spaced as close to if not six feet apart
2. Students will have assigned seats
3. Desk will be facing the front of the classroom
4. Classes may occur outside to allow for greater social/physical distancing
5. Occupancy limits will be set in shared instructional areas (Library, Computer Lab, Gyms, Auditoriums) in order to practice physical distancing for small group instruction

6. Breakfast, Snack and Lunch will be in the classroom, if space is available, or outside during nice weather
7. Students will have individual supplies, which will be stored away in individual containers
8. Sharing of food, drinks, clothing, school supplies, and other items is not permitted
9. Students and staff will keep three to six feet between individuals, as much as possible, for as long as possible
10. Traffic patterns and seating arrangements will be created throughout the school to accommodate physical distancing guidelines
11. Utilize plexiglass shielding in select areas with fixed interactions (i.e. small group areas, 1:1 areas, main office reception, lunch room).

Our staff will make every effort to limit the movement of students throughout the school building. Specialist (P.E., Art, Library, Music, Technology) teachers will be traveling from classrooms to classrooms.

Hallway Passing

1. Class transition traffic will be modified in order to accommodate social distancing guidelines

Bus

1. Students will be assigned seating and spaced to allow for physical distancing
2. Seating will be from the back of the bus to the front
3. Students from the same household will be seated together

c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette:

During SY20-21 : Yes

During SY21-22: Yes

Description of both SYs:

1. We have added touchless hand sanitizer stations throughout the school buildings and at the entrances students and staff will be utilizing them
2. All students and staff should use hand sanitizer as they enter the building, hand sanitizer will be made available in all lobbies/entrances
3. Students and staff are expected to wash hands frequently and use hand sanitizer if washing hands is not possible.

d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation:

During SY20-21: Yes

During SY21-22: Yes

Description of both SYs:

1. Frequent daily cleaning of high touch, shared surfaces (i.e. bathrooms, door knobs, handrails)
2. Safety and hygiene measures will be taken while students use the bathroom
3. Restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected multiple times a day. (i.e. Clean and disinfect countertops, sinks, toilets, urinals, flush valves, clean partitions, stalls, walls, and doors)
4. All classrooms will be provided with a supply of disposable gloves, disinfectant spray and hand sanitizer
5. Classrooms will be sanitized daily. This will include, cleaning and sanitizing of counters, desktops, seats, tabletops, doors (handles & windows), Sweep/vacuum/mop floors, and empty trash
6. Other areas to be cleaned will include - handrails and doors (handles & windows), Sweep/vacuum/mop hallway, offices, and bathroom floors, empty trash, and cleaning of water bottle fillers
7. Materials, surfaces and supplies used by multiple classes will be disinfected between classes.
8. We will be using a fogger every evening to assist in the disinfection of the building.

Ventilation

1. Open windows in the classroom, when possible, to circulate air
2. Fans can not be used, unless the air is not blowing directly onto students

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

During SY20-21: Yes

During SY21-22: Yes, unless the NH Guidelines change

Description of both SYs: The COVID Coordinator went from weekly to bi-weekly partnership calls with NH DHHS, NH Public Health, and other school districts around NH.

Exhibit Symptoms

1. Students or staff who exhibit symptoms will be directed home
2. Staff and students will be required to follow the CDC and DHHS guidance which includes Covid-19 testing or 10 to 14 day self-isolate
3. Students or staff who exhibit symptoms will be directed home to self-isolate and seek medical attention, as necessary
4. Any student or staff member who tests negative for COVID-19 and is feeling better may return to school and discontinue home isolation.

A Positive Case of Covid-19 - We followed the Department of Education - 5 steps to expect if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 ([PDF Format](#))

1. Once a positive result is reported, public health officials will contact the person with COVID-19. If the infected person is under 18 years old, the person's parent or guardian will be contacted. An investigation will be conducted and the person with COVID-19 will be asked to isolate at home.
2. Public health officials will assess who is considered to be a close contact and needs to be quarantined. The school may be contacted to get seating arrangements or other information.

Close contacts are those that had close, prolonged contact with the infected person. This is defined as six feet or closer for ten minutes or more.

3. Isolation for people with COVID-19 Children or staff who are under isolation will be required to stay home until they meet the following criteria: If symptomatic: (No fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication (Symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours (At least ten days have passed since symptoms first started If asymptomatic: (At least ten days have passed since their test was collected).
4. Quarantine of close contacts Children or staff who are under quarantine will be asked to stay home for 14 days after their last exposure to the infected person, monitor for symptoms and seek testing. A negative test does not shorten the length of quarantine.

This guideline changed - the length of quarantine when in close contact is 10 days.

5. Return to school People with COVID-19 may return once they have: (Met ALL of the relevant criteria outlined in Step 3 (Received a release letter from public health officials Close contacts may return once they have: (Completed their quarantine period without developing symptoms or testing positive.

Unity School District will follow all recommendations from DHHS and Division of Public Health Services which may include closing classrooms or portions of our building.

All positive cases, within the school, will be reported to the community by the Unity School District.

Nurse's Office

- Students with symptoms will remain in the isolation room awaiting pick up. Students must be picked up immediately.

f. Diagnostic and screening testing:

During SY20-21: Yes

During SY21-22: Yes, unless the NH Guidelines change

Description of both SYs:

20-21 Home - Before School Every Day

- Prior to students leaving for school, parents/guardians will check their child's temperature and answer screening questions to determine if their child should be coming to school.

Does your child have:

A Temperature Greater than or equal to 100.0 F, Fever and or Chills, Cough, Shortness of Breath or Difficulty breathing, New Loss of Smell, Muscle and/or Body Aches, Nasal Congestion, Runny Nose, Nausea and/or Vomiting, Diarrhea, Headache, or Sore Throat.

If your child has had any of the following:

Anyone in the household or child has had: Any close contact with someone suspected of or confirmed to have COVID-19 in the past 14 days. OR

Have traveled outside of New England (NH, VT, MA, ME, CT, RI) in the last 2 weeks.

If you answered yes, then your child should not be attending school and please notify the school as to why you will be keeping your child home.

There were **changes** in the above screening during the school year to If your child has had any of the following:

Anyone in the household or child has had: Any close contact with someone suspected of or confirmed to have COVID-19 in the past 14 days. OR

Have traveled outside of New England (NH, VT, MA, ME, CT, RI) in the last 2 weeks.

This was removed. to

Have you had close contact with someone in the prior 10 days who has tested positive for COVID-19? Or

Have you traveled in the prior 10 days internationally (outside of the U.S., except for essential travel to/from Canada*) or on a cruise ship?

21-22 would be the new one unless changes are made over the summer due to new NH Guidelines.

21-22 Home - Before School Every Day

- Prior to students leaving for school, parents/guardians will check their child's temperature and answer screening questions to determine if their child should be coming to school.

Does your child have:

1. Fever, or feeling feverish; Respiratory symptoms such as runny nose, nasal congestion, sore throat, cough, or shortness of breath; General body symptoms such as muscle aches, chills, and severe fatigue; Gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea, and Changes in a person's sense of taste or smell.
2. Have you had close contact with someone in the prior 10 days who has tested positive for COVID-19?
3. Have you traveled in the prior 10 days internationally (outside of the U.S., except for essential travel to/from Canada*) or on a cruise ship?

If you answered yes, then your child should not be attending school and please notify the school as to why you will be keeping your child home.

g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities:

During SY20-21: Yes

During SY21-22: Yes

Description of both SYs: SAU 6, in a joint effort with Dartmouth Hitchcock in Lebanon and Sullivan County Public Health, we were able to provide COVID 19 Vaccination Clinic for our staff on two different occasions. One being on March 20, 2021 with the second dose on April 17, 2021 and then on March 27, 2021 with the second dose on April 21, 2021. At both Clinics the staff received the Moderna.

We were also able to provide a Vaccination Clinic at our high school (Stevens High School), with the support of Rite Aid and DPHS COVID-19 Operations, to our students 12 years and older. The first dose on May 14, 2021 and the second dose on June 4, 2021. The students received the Pfizer vaccine.

SY21-22 - We will continue to work with Rite Aid and DPHS COVID-19 Operations and if the vaccine becomes available for students under 12, we will look to set up a site at Stevens High School for our students.

It is with great pride that we can report that SAU 6 has played a vital role in the fight against the pandemic in our community and continues to strive to vaccinate all our citizens.

h. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies:

During SY20-21: Yes

During SY21-22: Yes

Description of both SYs: Appropriate accommodations have been developed and implemented for children with disabilities with regard to health and safety throughout the pandemic. All students were evaluated according to their medical and emotional needs and an individualized plan was created to meet their health care needs. Communication with the students' parents/guardians was very important. Not only were individualized health care plans augmented or created, a whole host of protective measures and mitigation strategies were employed. This could range from simply purchasing "see through" masks so students who depend on facial expressions and lip reading to communicate to more involved medically based strategies used to keep our students safe.

1. Students are provided with a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) through the implementation of individualized learning programs.
2. Within 30 days of the start of the 20-21 school year parents were invited to participate in a compensatory education discussion/meeting.
3. Response to referrals / requests for evaluations for any student suspected of having a disability will be held within the mandated timelines
4. Special Education Meetings will continue to be held remotely.

i. Coordination with state and local health officials:

During SY20-21: Yes

During SY21-22: Yes

Description of both SYs: 20-21 school year, the COVID Coordinator went from weekly to bi-weekly partnership calls with NH DHHS, NH Public Health, and other school districts around NH. The plan is to continue with the partnership calls once they resume as they have been suspended for the summer. Coordinator will continue to be in contact with the DHHS School Liaison for any changes or reporting positive COVID cases.

IV. Continuity of Services

1. The Unity School District has provided continuity of services in addressing student academic needs:

Description during SY20-21: While a few students were attending school remotely, we offered extra learning services, to include extended time with a teacher, paraprofessional, special education teachers, title one teachers, social workers, and tutors all done remotely.

When students returned to in school learning, we continued with the services above except, the meeting times took place face-to-face or remotely depending on the needs and location of the students.

Description during SY21-22: During the summer, we will have a summer program to help support our students academically, socially, and emotionally. The summer program will be for students in kindergarten to seventh grade. It will be individualized based on the needs of the students. This will be a summer program. We are working on a before and after school program that will continue to assist our students in the areas of academic, social and emotional. We will also continue with tutoring.

2. The Unity School District has provided continuity of services in addressing student social, emotional, mental, and other health needs, which may include student health and food services:

Description during SY20-21:

1. Development of a multitiered system of supports that address emotional and behavioral health
2. Intentionally focus on the establishment of positive & trusting relationships, social and emotional skill building, mental and behavioral health, personal safety and self-regulatory capacity

3. First week of school - Focus on stabilizing students by spending time modeling expectations, answering questions, discussing the importance of the changes to the school day/procedures and acknowledging difficulties.

Food Service

1. All meals will be delivered and consumed in the classroom, if space is available, or outside pending weather. Plans will be in place for students with allergies
2. School-provided meals will be packaged in a single-serving closed container
3. Students will not be permitted to share food or beverages with others
4. The cafeteria will be set up with plexiglass dividers to provide barriers while students are eating if not 6ft apart.
5. Individual desk will be set up for students following the 6ft social distancing guidelines when eating

Unity did not provide food to remote students during the school year except at the school breaks.

Description during SY21-22: During the summer, free breakfast and free lunch will be available to our students at the summer programs. Those students that do not attend any of our summer programs, parents/guardians can apply to receive a free 7 day meal box, these meals will be delivered once a week by our bus company.

When available, we will be applying for the 21-22 school year free meals program. If granted, we will be able to provide free breakfast and lunch to our students for the 21-22 school year.

3. The Unity School District has provided continuity of services in addressing staff social, emotional, mental, and other health needs:

Description during SY20-21: We have a social worker that works with our students and staff regarding social, emotional, mental, and other health needs.

1. Development of a multitiered system of supports that address emotional and behavioral health
2. Intentionally focus on the establishment of positive & trusting relationships, social and emotional skill building, mental and behavioral health, personal safety and self-regulatory capacity
3. We had professional development based around personal health and wellbeing.

Description during SY21-22: We have a social worker that works with our students and staff regarding social, emotional, mental, and other health needs.

We will continue to promote personal health and wellbeing of our staff through ongoing professional development.

V. Plan Review

1. The Unity School District will meet the federal regulatory requirement to review and, as appropriate, revise its Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan at least every six months through September 30, 2023. - Yes

Description: Surveys of families and staff throughout the reopening process provided valuable feedback throughout the school year. Families, staff, and community members have the opportunity to comment and offer feedback on school reopening plans through monthly school board meetings. School reopening plans have been posted on the SAU's website (www.sau6.org and <https://ues.sau6.org/>) and emailed to parents/guardians with contact information provided should the public have questions and/or concerns. We have a reopening committee that will meet to discuss COVID in our schools, as well as our school safe return plan and the NH Safe School Guidelines. Changes will be made in accordance with the NH Guidelines and what we are seeing in our community.

2. In doing so, the Unity School District will meet the federal statutory requirement to seek public input and take such input into account in determining whether to revise the plan and, if revisions are determined necessary, on the revisions it makes to its plan.

Yes

Description: A survey went out to our families regarding our school safe return plan for the 20-21 school year and the NH Safe School Guidelines. Changes will be made in accordance with the NH Guidelines and what we are seeing in our community. We are planning on having meetings with the community (community forums) and sending out another survey regarding the school safe plan for the 21-22 school year.

Upon request, a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA may be provided with the plan in an alternative format. The plan may be orally translated for parents.

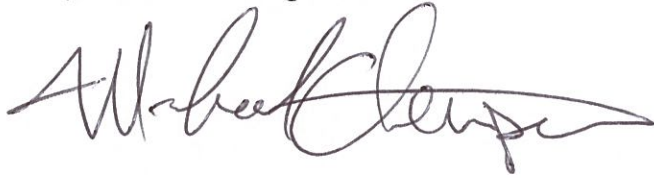
3. In doing so, the Unity School District will also meet the federal regulatory requirement to address NH Guidelines/CDC safety recommendations and, if the NH Guidelines/CDC has updated its safety recommendations at the time the Unity School District is revising its plan, each of the updated NH Guidelines/CDC safety recommendations.

(Note federal regulation on this plan requires such reporting, but does not require adoption of CDC safety recommendations. The NH DOE recognizes schools will implement localized safety measures based on the guidance provided by the CDC, NH Public Health, and local public health officials.) Yes

Description: Throughout the entire pandemic, we have been following the NH Guidelines. By following these guidelines, we have seen success in lower numbers of COVID cases in our schools, being able to have in person learning with little to no disruption, and a limited number of students and staff needing to quarantine or isolate. As we move forward, we plan on continuing to follow the NH Guidelines.

VI. Authorization

LEA Superintendent's Signature:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael Clump", written over a horizontal line.

Date:

A handwritten date "6/18/21" in dark ink.

VIII. Appendices

Appendix A. ARPA Statutory Excerpt

“(i) Safe return to in-person instruction.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A local educational agency receiving funds under this section shall develop and make publicly available on the local educational agency’s website, not later than 30 days after receiving the allocation of funds described in paragraph (d)(1), a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services.

(2) COMMENT PERIOD.—Before making the plan described in paragraph (1) publicly available, the local educational agency shall seek public comment on the plan and take such comments into account in the development of the plan.

(3) PREVIOUS PLANS.—If a local educational agency has developed a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction before the date of enactment of this Act that meets the requirements described in paragraphs (1) and (2), such plan shall be deemed to satisfy the requirements under this subsection.”

Appendix B. Interim Final Requirements of ARP ESSER Excerpt

“(3) *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 2001(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; and

(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."