



UNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SOAR TO SCHOOL PLAN 2021-2022

AUGUST 10, 2021

SOAR TO SCHOOL PLAN

PLAN FOCUS

- In-Person Learning
- Practical COVID Mitigation Procedures
- Mental Health and Social Supports
- Academic Interventions
- Positive Comprehensive School Experience

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Plan Changes

- The UNITY SOAR TO SCHOOL PLAN 2021-2022 is subject to change based upon local community COVID health data. Various COVID mitigation strategies may be changed or reinstated.
- District administration is authorized to make changes as needed, subject to Board approval.
- The Plan will be modified to comply with a legal order or mandate by a superseding governmental authority.
- The Plan satisfies the requirements of Federal ESSER Funding.

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Plan Overview

TOPIC	DISTRICT COVID STRATEGY
Face Coverings	Masks and Face Coverings are optional for all students and staff on District property.
COVID-19 Health Services Office	Unity will have an COVID isolation room available in the Health Services Office, if someone is symptomatic.
Close Contact Process	The close contact process will be administered by the Polk County Health Department.
Positive Case Communication	Unity will communicate with parents, via the Infinite Campus parent notification system, if there has been a possibility that their child has come in contact with a confirmed COVID positive individual. Parents should then monitor for symptoms.
Household Exclusion	If a positive case is confirmed in a household, the entire household must follow the exclusion protocol. For those who are vaccinated, this exclusion will not apply unless they are symptomatic.
Screening	COVID screening should be conducted by students and staff each day, prior to arriving at school.
Vaccination Exemption	All students and staff identified as a close contact will be exempted from the requirement of isolation if vaccinated, unless symptomatic.
Voluntary COVID Testing	Voluntary COVID testing will be made available through the Unity Health Services Office, through an agreement with the WI DHS. Testing is being offered as a convenience for families.
Voluntary Vaccination	Vaccination in the school setting, for students and staff, is a voluntary practice. Unity will provide access to vaccination information and clinics as it becomes available. Unity campus may be used as a county vaccination site.

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Plan Overview

TOPIC	DISTRICT COVID STRATEGY
COVID Related Student Absences	COVID related student absences will be supported through Canvas Learning .
Visitors	Visitors to classrooms will not be allowed unless specifically approved. Visitors must follow school safety check-in procedures. Pickup and drop-off access for parents will be limited to the entrance.
Transportation	Assigned seats are required on daily bus routes. Kobussen Buses may require further COVID precautions.
Field Trips	School sponsored field trips may resume. Students and staff will abide by the COVID requirements of the field trip location. Field trips to certain locations may be restricted.
Social Distancing	Social distancing of three (3) feet will be followed as is reasonably practical.
Hygiene	Increased hand washing procedures will continue. Hand sanitizer stations will continue to be available in all common areas.
Cleaning and Disinfection	Increased cleaning and disinfection between student groups will continue in all classrooms, buses, and interior common areas.
Ventilation	Filtration and ventilation air exchange rates to meet or exceed CDC recommended levels.
Events	School sponsored events (concerts, games, activities, etc.) will resume. Events will be scheduled for the largest location available.
Communication	Information regarding positive cases and updates to the Soar to School Plan will be posted to the District website at www.unity.k12.wi.us .

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Plan Components

- COVID Screener and Absences
- Optional Mask Policy
- Learning Model
- Special Education and 504 Plans
- Health Services
- Mental Health Supports
- Athletics and Co-Curricular Activities
- Technology
- Communication
- School Nutrition
- Transportation
- Facilities Management
- Unity Child Care

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COVID Screener and Absences

- **Parents/Guardians should not send their child(ren) to school if they are ill.**
- A COVID screener tool is located on the District website at www.unity.k12.wi.us.
- Parents/Guardians should screen their child(ren) daily, prior to arriving at school or placing their child on the school bus.
- Student athletes should complete their COVID screener, as required for participation by the WIAA.
- Family members of a COVID positive individual are to be excluded from the school environment.

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OPTIONAL Mask Policy

- All students, staff, and visitors have the option of wearing a mask or face covering on school property.
- School activities at other locations may require wearing masks in compliance with the venue's requirements. Unity will follow the requirements of the host venue.
- All students, regardless of whether they are wearing a mask or not, will be treated with kindness, empathy, and respect.
- The policy of mask wearing will be periodically reviewed by the district administration.
- Wearing masks on school buses is currently required. Kobussen may take additional precautions, but Unity will not take disciplinary action regarding a student for not wearing a mask on a school bus.

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Learning Model

- Unity School District is committed to providing an In-Person learning model for the success of its students.
- Canvas Learning Management System will be used to organize learning activities and lessons for students, for those in school and absent.
- To this end, a “Virtual Learning Option” is not available for all students. If a parent or student is interested in a virtual learning setting, they must meet with their principal for approval. Virtual learning is provided by a contracted vendor (Wisconsin Virtual Academy, EduCere, etc.) and supported by District staff.

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Special Education and 504 Plans

- Unity School District is committed to working collaboratively with families of students with disabilities to ensure that consistent, quality services are provided.
- Parents of students with disabilities are encouraged to communicate with their principal or child's case manager regarding their child's IEP and whether additional adjustments or modifications may be necessary.
- Parents have the option of attending meetings in person, via telephone, Google Meet, or ZOOM.

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Health Services

- **Free, voluntary COVID testing will be offered at the school through an agreement with WI DHS.** Testing is offered as a convenience for families.
- A separate COVID isolation room will be located in the Health Services Office. The isolation room will have additional ventilation and filtration.
- The school nurse will send home students who present with symptoms during the school day.
- All individuals with COVID symptoms are to remain home for 24 hours after symptoms subside.
- All confirmed COVID positive individuals must follow the 7-, 10-, or 14-day quarantine requirement.
- The school nurse will collaborate and communicate with the Polk County Health Department.

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Mental Health Supports

- **Unity School District has added an additional school counselor to its pupil services team.**
- A school social worker continues to provide parent/family support, connecting with available resources.
- Unity has an in-school therapy clinic, with an agreement with Family Therapy Associates (FTA), to provide therapy sessions. Parents are encouraged to communicate directly with their child's school counselor or FTA for referral or scheduling.
- Unity will continue to utilize screeners to identify students who may benefit from assistance or counseling.
- Unity has implemented the daily screener, CloseGap, so that struggling students may receive a same-day connection with a counselor.

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Athletics and Co-Curricular Activities

- **The WIAA COVID guidelines are posted online at www.wiaawi.org.**
- Unity will follow the WIAA COVID guidelines as much as possible, to ensure that Unity's student-athletes are allowed to compete.
- Sharing of common items, like water bottles, is not allowed.
- Vaccination is encouraged, as vaccinated athletes are exempt from exclusion.
- Home events will be streamed via Unity's YouTube Channel or WeAreUnity.
- Events, concerts, and games may have an audience or spectators.
- Concession sales return for 2021-2022, with precautions and prepackaging.

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Technology

- Students are provided with school issued technology devices.
 - Grades 1-4: iPad, stored at school, unless needed during absence.
 - Grades 5-8: iPad, with keyboard case, able to be taken home daily.
 - Grades 9-12: Apple Laptop, able to be taken home daily.
- Internet Access: Parents are encouraged to communicate with the District if internet access is limiting your family's educational experience.
 - Public WiFi Access:
 - Unity School Parking Lot
 - Village Public Libraries
 - Lakeland Communications - Milltown, WI
- Canvas Learning Management System will be used to organize learning activities and lessons for students, for those in school and absent.
- Google Meet and Zoom will continue to be used when virtual meetings are necessary.
- If a parent or student is interested in a virtual learning setting, they must meet with their principal for approval. Virtual learning is provided by a contracted vendor (Wisconsin Virtual Academy, EduCere, etc.) and supported by District staff.

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Communication

- COVID information will be shared via the District website at www.unity.k12.wi.us. Parents are encouraged to download the Unity App and follow the District on Facebook and Instagram.
- Direct parent communication will be facilitated via the Infinite Campus Parent Notification System. Parents are encouraged to update their contact information in the parent portal. Communication will occur in various ways through this system; phone call, text messaging, and emails.
- Periodic letters may be mailed or sent home with students.
- Parents are encouraged to communicate with their child(ren)'s teachers and principal whenever they have concerns or questions.

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School Nutrition

- **Free breakfast and lunch meals will continue for all students for the 2021-2022 school year.**
- Students will have access to hand sanitizer and hand washing prior to eating.
- Social distancing of three (3) feet, as much as possible, will be followed in the cafeteria setting.
- Groups of students may eat with their classroom or grade level to reduce the number of students in the cafeteria or classroom at any one time.
- Food options will return. Such options may be pre-packaged salads and a la carte items.

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Transportation

- Assigned seats are required on school buses for daily routes.
- Parents are notified that social distancing is not possible on school buses.
- Buses will be disinfected between routes.
- Masks are required on school buses, in accordance with federal order. Students will not be disciplined for not wearing a mask on a school bus.

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Facilities Management

- Daily and weekly cleaning and disinfecting will continue.
- Disinfection supplies will continue to be made available and used between student groups.
- Plexiglass shields will be removed, except in the office and food service areas.
- Ventilation systems will continue to maximize air filtration and fresh air circulation.
- Hand sanitizer stations will continue to be provided in common areas.
- Drinking fountains will remain off. Additional water bottle filling stations are being installed.
- Classroom spaces will be maximize space between students as is practical.

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Unity Child Care

- The LEAP Childcare Center may have distinct COVID mitigation strategies unique to the needs of the setting.
- LEAP Childcare Center closure decisions are made separately from the school buildings and will be communicated directly with parents.