



## UNION LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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TO: The Union Local School District Staff, Students, and Families

FROM: Ben Porter

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "BP", is written over the printed name "Ben Porter".

RE: Planning for Fall 2020

DATE: June 19, 2020

The purpose of this memo is to provide district stakeholders with some information about the Union Local School District's planning for the 2020/2021 school year. No matter how you view the current pandemic and situation, it is imperative that this time is viewed as an opportunity to improve public education as we currently know it. At Union Local, we have developed a comprehensive plan that outlines four potential levels of education delivery, with the ultimate goal of all students being present on the campus all day, every day. This spectrum of educational delivery would go from Level 1 to Level 4. As mentioned above Level 1 would constitute all day, every day school, while Level 4 would consist of Home-Based Instruction. I want to emphasize that we will do as much as we possibly can to be able to provide a normal school year for your child. However, we do realize that there are several, significant obstacles we must overcome to make this happen.

It is important to state that the health, safety, and well-being of students, staff and families are the primary priorities during the reopening and throughout the coming academic year. At Union Local we realize that caution will be essential and the need to structure ourselves to conform with state and federal guidelines is of paramount importance. The district, as with other school districts across the state, is waiting on guidelines from the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Education. Once these guidelines are obtained, we will zoom focus on fine tuning our plan.

The school closings we experienced this Spring further drew attention to the structural inequities that continue to exist in public schools today. One such inequity is the limited student access to broadband internet service. These inequities are something that we all must pay attention to as we progress through improving public education.

Recently, a survey was conducted asking for families input on the remote learning experience, as well as families intent for their children to return to campus in the fall. To share some of the findings, 94% of families surveyed stated that their child would return to the school campus in the fall. We recognize that our question was posed in a general format, and will continue to seek further input from families and staff on strategies they believe to be important to facilitate this return. In summary, families identified the need for improved

communication from the district, to include such things as clear expectations and stronger interaction. It seemed as if Zoom meetings when used for direct instruction were positive for students. Furthermore, it was noted that the district needed to become more consistent with the learning management platforms and practices that were being implemented.

We understand that you have and will have concerns and questions as we progress through the summer. It is our intent to begin to finalize plans by mid to late July. As federal, state and local guidelines are continuing to evolve, we will continue to analyze and prepare a system to educate our students to our best ability. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions. I can be reached by email at [bporter@ulschools.com](mailto:bporter@ulschools.com) or by phone at 740-782-1978 X 2501.