

**GEORGE JUNIOR
REPUBLIC UFSD**



RE-OPENING PLAN

Contents

- I. Introduction and Assurances
- II. Communication/ Family and Community Engagement
- III. Health & Safety
- IV. Facilities
- V. Child Nutrition
- VI. Transportation
- VII. Social Emotional Learning
- VIII. School Schedules
- IX. Attendance & Chronic Absenteeism
- X. Technology & Connectivity
- XI. Teaching & Learning
- XII. Special Education
- XIII. Bilingual Education & World Languages
- XIV. Teacher & Principal Evaluation System
- XV. Certification, Incidental & Substitute Teaching

I. Introduction

At George Junior Republic our primary commitment is to the students and families we serve. Our priority must be keeping them safe. When the 2020-2021 school year begins, our program will look much different than previous years due to COVID-19 and the health and safety measures that continue to evolve. This School Reopening Plan will define clear guidance for the reopening of our educational program and aligns with the regulations developed in collaboration with NYSDOH and the NYS Education Department.

The areas outlined in this plan represent the many considerations that George Junior Republic will address to reopen our school safely and to sustain a safe operation. It is important to note that our plan retains a strong focus on academic instruction to enhance student performance and address learning loss. An emphasis on the social-emotional needs of our students is a priority and therefore have addressed this within our plan.

This plan includes procedures that will be followed in the following program:

- High School Equivalency Preparation
- Grade 7 – 12
- Students participating in New York State Alternative Assessment (NYSSA)

To be clear, the health and safety of our students, our staff, and their families is our top priority. We have developed a plan that intends to ensure that students and employees feel comfortable and safe returning to our school building. Our reopening plan incorporates recommendations and guidance from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), the [New York State Department of Health \(NYSDOH\)](#) and the [New York State Education Department \(NYSED\)](#).

It is possible that we may need to alternate between in-person and remote learning throughout the year due to recommendations and guidance from our partnering agencies, component school districts, and stay-at-home orders from the Governor. The level of infection, the spread of the COVID-19 virus and response to the disease in our community will be at the forefront of decision making as we move to open our schools

District Superintendent Sonia Apker will serve as George Junior Republics COVID-19 Coordinator. She will serve as a central contact for schools and stakeholders, families, staff and other school community members and will ensure that GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD is in compliance and following the best practices per state and federal guidelines.

This document itself is a work-in-progress and will be updated periodically as new guidance and resources become available from the town, county, state and federal government and department of education. We will regularly update our plan, with new changes **highlighted in yellow**. Please also refer to the 'Last Updated' date on the bottom of the page.

Guiding Principles

The development of this plan was guided by and grounded in the following guiding principles:

1. Safeguarding the health and safety of students and staff;
2. Providing the opportunity for all students to access education in the fall;
3. Monitoring school, students, and staff. When necessary, modifying schedules to appropriately contain COVID-19 spread;
4. Emphasizing equity, access, and support to the students and communities that are emerging from this historic disruption.
5. Fostering strong two-way communication with residential program, partners, families, educators, and staff;
6. Factoring into decision making the challenges to the physical safety, social emotional well-being, and the mental health needs of our students caused by school closure; and
7. Considering and supporting diversity in our school and school district as we provide education is essential.

II. Communication/Family and Community Engagement

To help inform our reopening plan, GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD has sought feedback and input from stakeholders, including administrators, faculty, staff, students, parents/guardians of students, local health department officials and health care providers, and employee union. Engagement efforts included a representative Re-Opening Task Force, virtual forums/meetings, and one-on-one conversations.

GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD remains committed to communicating all elements of this reopening plan to students, parents and guardians, staff and visitors. The plan is available to all stakeholders via GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD website at www.gjrufsd.org and will be updated throughout the school year, as necessary, to respond to local circumstances.

As part of its planning for the reopening of schools and the new academic year, GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD has developed a plan for communicating all necessary information to district staff, students, parents/guardians, visitors, education partners and vendors. GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD will use its existing communication modes including email, the gjr web site, mass notification software as well as appropriate signage and training opportunities to support the dissemination of consistent messaging regarding new protocols and procedures, expectations, requirements and options related to school operations throughout the pandemic.

GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD Communication Goals:

- To encourage all students, faculty, staff, and visitors through verbal and written communication (e.g., signage) to adhere to NYSED, CDC, and DOH guidance regarding the use of acceptable face coverings - a face mask covering the nose and mouth, when a social distance cannot be maintained.
- To provide regular updates about health and safety, scheduling, and all other information faculty, staff and families should be aware of.
- To provide information to families through a wide array of platforms including mail, email, telephone calls, text messaging, and website postings.
- To provide information on how families can access technology and receive technical support to assist with utilization and maintenance of equipment.

GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD developed communication materials accordingly, including the creation of sample messages/letters for COVID-19 cases or potential cases for various school audiences. We will utilize communication methods used by GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD to inform the school community. Information will be dispersed in a variety of platforms that include:

- District website
- Call list/ROBO Call
- Email blast
- Online training
- Correspondence (letters) to homes
- Video Conferencing Platforms

Clear messaging will be prepared and consistently communicated before re-entry, on the first day, during the first week, throughout the first month, and continuously throughout the year. Minimum monthly communication will provide information on the following topics:

- Who to contact with questions, concerns or suggestions. Empower people to make a positive difference and communicate the expectation for them to do so.
- The facts as we currently know them (NYSDOH, CDC).
- The importance of social distancing, monitoring symptoms of COVID-19 and when to stay home.
- Set protocols for entrance (screening) and the review process for staff calling in sick. Constant reminders for staff to stay home if they feel sick.
- Encourage and implement social distancing in bathrooms, break room, hallways, etc.
- Practice proper hand hygiene. Use of hand sanitizer is allowed, but hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is still more effective. Hand sanitizer works best on clean hands.
- Encourage and practice proper respiratory etiquette (i.e., coughing or sneezing into your elbow if a tissue is not available).
- Encouraging personal responsibility for yourself and your work area.
- Educating the school community on district policies/procedures, including how to properly wear and dispose of a face mask/respirator.

III. Health and Safety

The health and safety of our students, our staff and their families is our top priority. We want students and employees to feel comfortable and safe returning to school. Our reopening plan incorporates recommendations and guidance from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), the [New York State Department of Health \(NYSDOH\)](#) and the [New York State Education Department \(NYSED\)](#).

The following protocols and procedures will be in place in our school program for the 2020-21 school year should in-person schooling resume.

For more information about how health and safety protocols and trainings will be communicated to students, families and staff members, visit the *Communication/Family and Community Engagement* section above.

To ensure employees and students comply with communication requirements, GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD will:

- Post signage throughout the buildings to remind personnel to adhere to proper hygiene, social distancing rules, appropriate use of PPE, and cleaning/disinfecting protocols.
- Establish a communication plan for employees, visitors, and parents/guardians with a consistent means to provide updated information. This will be accomplished through:
 - Website
 - Email
 - Print copy mailings
 - Voice and/or video messaging
- Maintain a continuous log of every person, including staff, workers, and visitors, who may have close contact with other individuals at the work site, school, or area; excluding deliveries that are performed with appropriate PPE or through contactless means.
- If an employee tests positive for COVID-19, GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD will immediately cooperate with contact tracing efforts, including notification of potential contacts, such as other employees or visitors who had close contact with the individual. Confidentiality will be exercised and maintained for all reporting and tracing efforts as required by state and federal laws and regulations.

Facility Entry

- Where feasible, entry and egress in and out of all buildings will be limited to an identified location. If applicable, a single point entry and single point egress will be identified to minimize cross traffic. All visitor entry to the buildings will occur through the main entrance to a check-in point.
- A face covering must be worn by all individuals, students, staff, and visitors on GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD property when social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Proper face covering includes, but is not limited to, a surgical mask, cloth mask, balaclava or bandana and must completely cover the individual's mouth and nose.
- A plastic face shield alone is not an acceptable face covering.

- All employees and students may choose to utilize their own face covering, however face coverings can and will be provided by GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD daily.

Daily Health Screening

- Prior to entering all GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD locations, individuals must complete a medical screening questionnaire. This questionnaire is accessible through the GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD website at www.gjrufsd.org or through signage posted at all main entrances that provides a direct link to the survey using an iPhone or android phone. A paper option will also be made available at each entrance and can also be downloaded from www.gjrufsd.org and completed prior to arrival.
- Staff should complete this screening prior to arriving at work via the electronic submission form.
- Although filing of the health survey is preferred to be completed online, a paper option will also be made available at each entrance and can also be downloaded from www.gjrufsd.org and completed prior to arrival.
- Staff will be encouraged to monitor their own temperature and symptoms prior to arrival on campus and throughout the day. Anyone whose symptoms response changes from a NO to YES during the day, must contact their supervisor immediately and await further instruction.
- Students and visitors will be screened for temperature at arrival.
 - Cottages will monitor temperatures and symptoms prior to sending their student on a cottage van or walking to school.
 - Day school students will be screened upon arrival to campus for temperatures.
 - Visitors will have their temperatures taken upon arrival to campus checkpoint.
- Students will be signed in and accounted for as without fever/symptoms and able to attend school through attendance roll.
- For multiple individuals entering the building simultaneously, they will be required to maintain social distance until they can be signed in and screened.
- Only after all individuals have been accounted for, cleared through the medical screening and wearing proper face coverings, will access to the building be granted.
- Should a person fail the medical screening, specific procedures should be followed. Please reference the Suspect or Confirmed COVID-19 Case section for guidance.

Social Distancing

- All individuals on GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD premises must maintain social distancing and face covering must be used when social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Proper social distancing is defined as a six (6) foot separation between individuals. When social distancing is practiced, such as in an isolated office or large meeting space, the individuals may remove their face covering. However, in common areas, such as breakrooms, hallways or bathrooms, the face covering must be worn.
- Ensure six (6) foot distance between personnel unless safety or core function of the work activity requires a shorter distance. Any time personnel are less than six (6) feet apart from one another, personnel must wear acceptable face coverings.
- Tightly confined spaces will be occupied by only one individual at a time unless all occupants are wearing face coverings.
- Social distance separation will be communicated with signage indicating 6ft. apart in commonly used and other applicable areas on the site (e.g., Hallways, reception areas).

- In-person gatherings will be limited as much as possible and we will use tele- or video-conferencing whenever possible. Essential in-person gatherings, such as meetings, will be held in open, well-ventilated spaces with appropriate social distancing and/or face coverings among participants.

Personal Hygiene

- Hand washing - Students and staff must practice good hand hygiene to help reduce the spread of infection. Staff and students should conduct routine hand washing and hand sanitization throughout the school and workday. Hand hygiene stations/sinks are provided for staff and students, including hand washing with soap, water and paper towels, or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing 60% or more alcohol for areas where handwashing is not feasible. Classroom's will be provided with hand sanitizer.
- Paper towel dispensers are for use in bathrooms in the buildings.

Visitor and Vendor Practices

No outside visitors or volunteers will be allowed on school campuses, except for the safety and well-being of students. Parents/guardians will report to the front office and not go beyond unless it is for the safety or well-being of their child. Essential visitors to facilities and parent/guardian visitors will be required to wear face coverings and will have restricted access to our school buildings.

Visitors

Visitors are required to complete the mandatory questionnaire (see **George Junior Republic Visitor Questionnaire**) prior to any work or business in any buildings to determine access to the facility. The secretary at front entrance will be required to provide visitors with the questionnaire and have them complete it before allowing entrance into any GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD Building. The Secretary will maintain a file of all completed questionnaires and keep a log of all visitors allowed into the facility. Visitors will be required to provide and wear their own appropriate face covering prior to arriving or being granted access to any GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD Building.

Vendor

- All vendors must be wearing proper face covering prior to entering any building and while they are in the building.
- All vendors must pass through our temperature screening checkpoint and to fill out the **GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD Visitor Questionnaire** at the front office. The vendors must sign in with their identification.
- No vendor should enter a building unless necessary for completion of their job.
- All vendors must sign in and out at the front office.
- Should a vendor become ill while on campus, they must alert the staff member they are visiting to report the issue and then immediately seek medical attention.
- At the end of each day, the receptionist/designee must scan the sign-in/out documents and send them individually to: Director of Facilities, Larry Lipfert.

Training

GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD will train all personnel on new protocols and frequently communicate safety guidelines. Training on the precautions listed below will be conducted either

remotely or in person. Social distancing and face coverings will be required for all participants if training is conducted in person. Training material is designed to be easy to understand and available in the appropriate language and literacy level for all workers.

GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD will ensure all students are taught or trained how to follow new COVID-19 protocols safely and correctly, including but not limited to hand hygiene, proper face covering wearing, social distancing, and respiratory hygiene. Additional training will be provided in:

- Prevention of disease spreads by staying home when they are sick.
- Proper respiratory etiquette, including covering coughs and sneezes.
- Avoiding the use of communal objects. If communal objects must be used, provide information on proper disinfection procedures between use. Examples of communal objects include, but are not limited to, other workers' phones, desks, offices, computers or other devices, other work tools and equipment.
- Provide employees and students with up-to-date education and training on COVID-19.
- Risk factors and protective behaviors (i.e., cough etiquette and care of PPE).

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>

Training for Screeners

GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD will have our nursing staff that are familiar with with CDC, OSHA protocols, and DOH guidelines in each building who will be a trained screener. Screeners will wear appropriate employer-provided PPE, including at a minimum, a face covering, temperature screenings and social distancing. If social distancing or barrier/partition controls cannot be implemented during screening, PPE should be used when within six (6) feet of a student.

Training topics for all staff and substitutes

- Proper hand washing: proper hand hygiene. Promote frequent and thorough hand washing by providing employees, the school community, and visitors with a place to wash their hands. If soap and running water are not immediately available, provide alcohol-based hand rubs containing at least 60% ethanol or 70% isopropyl alcohol. Provide training on proper handwashing and hand sanitizer use
 - Students and staff are required to exercise hand hygiene (handwashing or sanitizing) upon arrival to school, before eating, before putting on and taking off masks, and before dismissal.
 - When handwashing, individuals should use soap and water to wash all surfaces of their hands for at least 20 seconds, wait for visible lather, rinse thoroughly, and dry with an individual disposable towel.
 - If handwashing is not feasible, Hand sanitizer should be applied to all surfaces of the hands and in sufficient quantity that it takes 20 seconds of rubbing hands together for the sanitizer to dry. Hand sanitizer should be placed at key locations (e.g., building entrances, cafeteria, classrooms).
- Proper cough and sneeze etiquette
 - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
 - Throw away used tissues in a lined trash can.
 - Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Social Distancing

- Provide training for faculty/staff on how to address close contact interactions with students as part of every day job tasks.
- Classroom and facility configuration: To the extent possible, aim for desks to be spaced six feet apart and facing the same direction.
- Again, schools should seek to maximize physical distance between desks within their physical and operational constraints.
- Operating procedures (various by building)
 - Entrance into the building
 - Cleaning procedures
 - Sick child pick up
 - Staff who are sick or suspected to be sick

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>
- Proper cleaning techniques
 - Cleaning and disinfecting

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/clean-disinfect/index.html>
- Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/pdf/Reopening_America_Guidance.pdf
- Hazard Communication – Right-To-Know
 - Proper use of chemicals and Safety Data sheets
 - <https://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/>
 - No chemicals from home
 - Transfer of hand sanitizer in smaller containers
 - List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)
 - <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19>
- Exposure Control Plan – with a focus on Pandemic/COVID-19
- Personal Protective Equipment - PPE
 - Update Hazard Assessment and PPE Selection Worksheet for all identified employees
 - Proper type, use, and size
 - Cleaning and sanitizing of the face covering (if applicable)
 - Provide training for staff and students on wearing, putting on, removing and discarding PPE, including in the context of their current and potential duties

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>
- Use of face coverings (donning/doffing) (cloth vs. surgical)
 - Adults, including educators and staff, are required to wear masks/face coverings.
 - Students are required to wear a mask/face covering that covers their nose and mouth.
 - Mask breaks should be scheduled throughout the day. Breaks should occur when students can be six feet apart and using proper removal and putting on of masks.
 - Masks/face coverings should be provided by the student/family, but extra disposable face masks should be made available by the school for students who need them
- Respirator Protection (N95 - required for identified employees per NYS)

- Inclusive into your existing Respirator Protection Program or can be a separate Respirator Protection Program for medical staff only
- Training provided for identified personnel only

<https://oshareview.com/2020/04/osha-requirements-for-occupational-use-of-n95-respirators-in-healthcare/>

Signs and Messages

Signage/posters will be hung in classrooms and at building entrances and throughout buildings reminding personnel to adhere to proper hygiene, social distancing rules, appropriate use of PPE and cleaning and disinfecting protocols.

When Students Eat in Designated Area's

- Train teachers on food allergies, including symptoms of allergic reactions to food.
- Train all non-food service staff on any meal service-related activities they will be responsible for.

https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/foodallergies/pdf/13_243135_A_Food_Allergy_Web_508.pdf

Space Design and Capacities

General Office Area

- All offices will be limited to 50% the rated occupancy for the space. Offices must normally maintain a minimum of 150 sq. ft. per individual.
- Where applicable all offices and small spaces will be limited to one (1) individual at a time.
- In a multiple occupant office, occupancy will be reduced to 50% normal load in addition to maintaining at least 6ft of separation between individuals.
- Workstations will be reconfigured so that employees do not face each other, or establish partitions if facing each other cannot be avoided
- Face coverings should be worn in these multiple use office settings.
- Additional breaks may be allotted to allow individuals time to leave the space to remove their masks. Specific determination of these conditions will be determined by the individual's program supervisor.
- Will reduce tasks requiring large amounts of people to be in one area
- Employees will be encouraged to use virtual meeting tools, including phone and virtual teleconference, in lieu of in-person meetings, whenever possible
- If in-person meetings are essential, consider limiting meeting attendance depending on local, state, and federal guidelines.

Conference Rooms

- Will limit in-person meetings (refer to NYS guidance) if virtual meetings are not feasible
- If meetings are to occur in person, they will be conducted efficiently
- Social distancing among participants will be required
- Lingering and socializing before and after meetings will be discouraged

Break Rooms and Lunch Rooms

- Breakroom use is discontinued if a minimum of 6 ft. separation cannot be maintained when consuming food or drink.
- Staff are advised to take their lunch and breaks in their private offices or classrooms; in their vehicles.
- Staggered break schedules may be utilized to assist with separation concerns.
- If staff wish to take breaks together they must do such in a large space or outside, where at minimum 6ft. of separation can occur.
- Amenities that are handled with high contact frequency, such as water coolers, coffee makers, and bulk snacks will be replaced with alternatives where possible.
- Communal meals will not be provided to employees, and food will not be available in common areas where employees may congregate.

Copier Rooms/Areas

- Congregating in copier rooms/areas is discouraged.
- Cleaning supplies will be provided at copier stations.
- Staff are encouraged to wipe down touch surfaces post and prior use.
- Staff must be wearing appropriate face covering.

Restrooms

- All bathrooms regardless of size will be limited to one person at a time.
- Individuals must knock before entering a bathroom to ensure there is no other occupant present.
- In special circumstances where a student must be assisted in the use of the lavatory, the adult present must be wearing all applicable personal protective equipment including a face covering and when medically applicable, the student will be wearing a proper face covering as well.

Hallways/Stairwells

- Where single flow is not applicable, bi-direction traffic will be permitted.
- Directional flow will be identified by indications on the floor/stairs
- Adequate distancing will be obtained between all individuals by taped off lanes on the corridor floors/stair treads.
- All individuals must also allow for adequate space between when traveling in the same direction.

Classrooms

- Occupancy in each classroom will be specific and determined based on the overall square footage of the space.
- Each Student, teacher and support staff will maintain 6 ft. of separation from others or be wearing a face covering.
- Additional considerations will be taken to account for space utilized for classrooms and teaching material.
- Students, teachers and support staff will be required to wear a proper face covering.
- Restrict items in the classroom to that of obvious use.
 - Remove any unnecessary furniture.

- Remove any soft surfaces that are difficult to disinfect such as:
 - Area Rugs
 - Soft fabric chairs

Nurse Stations

- All students and staff are required to wear appropriate face coverings.
 - N95 Respirator use for nurses should be limited to situations of suspected COVID-19
 - Nurses must receive proper training and fitment of N95 Respirators prior to use.
- Where applicable, nurse stations have been reconfigured to:
 - Maintain social distancing of no less than 6ft.
 - Create “sick” and “well” zones.
 - Students that receive daily medication will be treated separately from students presenting with symptoms of illness.
 - Nebulizer treatments will be conducted in a separate isolated space with adequate fresh air circulation.
 - Physical separation will be achieved by utilizing:
 - Individual exam rooms
 - Polycarbonate barriers
 - Retractable dividing curtain walls.
- Isolation Room/s
 - Individuals presenting with symptoms representative of COVID-19 should be immediately isolated to reduce risk of transmission.
 - A separate room will be utilized where applicable.

Isolation Rooms

- Where applicable, separate, independent room/s with a door in close proximity to the exterior will be utilized for quarantining individuals who present with symptoms representative of COVID-19.

Reception areas

Reception areas will remain at all entrances of each building.

- Where a multi-entrance design is used, additional reception areas will be instituted.
- They will serve as the primary location for accounting for all individuals entering and exiting the building.
- Floor demarcations have been installed to indicate where visitors shall stand to maintain social distance.
- Reception areas have had seating removed or adequately spaced to provide at minimum of 6ft of separation.
- Frequently touched materials such as magazines have been removed.

Computer Labs

- The use of shared space and equipment use will be limited where feasible.
- **Blocks of computers will be sectioned off to ensure social distancing is maintained.**
- **Tables of computers will be reconfigured**

- Cleaning and disinfection of computer labs and keyboard will be frequent
- Students should be instructed to wash hands prior to and after touching the keyboards along with other frequently touched surfaces.

Library Spaces

- Remove all soft covered surfaces that cannot be properly cleaned and disinfected.
- Reconfigure space to ensure social distancing.
- Borrowing of materials such as books may need to be discontinued if adequate disinfection cannot be achieved.
- Create directional traffic flow patterns between bookcases to ensure social distancing

Engineering Controls

- Alcohol based hand sanitizer will be available at the front entrance, main entrance, by the time clock and in every classroom.
- Bathrooms
 - Limited to one occupant at a time.
 - Soap dispensers are in place at each sink
 - Paper towels dispensers are in place at each sink.
- Water Fountains
 - Ensure that water fountains are clean and properly maintained.
 - Provide access to water fountains throughout the school.
 - Allow students to go to the water fountain if they need to drink water
 - Bathrooms, science classrooms and locker room sinks should not be used for drinking water but may be used for hand washing only.
- Floor Demarcations
 - All entrances or areas of static wait have floor signage installed allotting for a minimum of six (6) feet of separation between all individuals
 - Corridor floors and Stairway treading have been fitted with stripping to indicate directional traffic flow and social distancing.
- Corridor doors will all be affixed open using electromagnetic hold-open devices to minimize the need to touch doors.

Building Ventilation:

- GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD building HVAC systems are maintained and operated in an appropriate manner to minimize the spread of infectious disease. As part of the plan to reopen the GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD campus, each HVAC unit has had preventive maintenance conducted where needed and also have been inspected for proper operation during the summer months. Additionally, GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD ventilation systems utilize MERV 11 high capacity rated filters which meet current NYSSSED standards for air filtration systems. These filters are changed three times per year (will be changed next prior to the start of the regular school year in August 2020). HVAC systems are operated continuously during all times that the campus buildings are occupied.

- Windows may also be opened and used to provide the availability of fresh air, but may not promote proper air movement throughout the space without the use of fans to direct exhausted air to the outdoors. Windows should not be opened when building air conditioning or heating systems are in operation. Additionally, windows should not be considered a substitution to mechanical ventilation systems due to the lack of filtration available to reduce or lessen potential allergen exposure.
- The vast majority of occupied school classrooms and work areas are provided with some form of mechanical ventilation which is typically filtered supply and return air through a rooftop mounted HVAC unit and ductwork system or unit-ventilator. However, a few occupied spaces exist where mechanical ventilation systems are not provided. Where these spaces are used for occupancy, staff members housed in these spaces should follow appropriate social/physical distancing rules and separate work areas from other staff members by a minimum of six feet and wear face coverings as appropriate.

Cleaning and Disinfecting:

- Cleaning and disinfection of classroom spaces should be conducted routinely each day upon class or cohort changes by department staff members. Staff members should keep a log of any cleaning and disinfection related work that they conduct. GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD will provide cleaning/disinfection logs for staff use.
- Staff members must use disinfectant products supplied by GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD (disinfectant wipes and/or disinfectant spray and paper towels) to routinely clean and disinfect high touch surfaces in work areas and classrooms such as light switches, tables, sink and toilet fixtures, door handles, desks, phones, keyboards and tablets, etc. Limit the sharing of objects and discourage touching of shared surfaces. When in contact with shared objects or frequently touched areas, wear gloves, sanitize or wash hands before contact. **NOTE: Only non-Clorox, non-bleach and non-ammonia based disinfectant products should be used to clean and disinfect computer related equipment and peripherals (i.e. monitors, keypads, IPADs, laptops, etc.).**
- GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD facilities will also be cleaned and disinfected regularly on a daily basis by Cleaning Staff. Information regarding daily cleaning and disinfecting procedures and appropriate product use is available from Facilities. Additional cleaning and disinfection will also be conducted during the work day in building restrooms and other high touch areas by staff.
- At the end of each day, all staff members should make sure that desks, tables, counter tops and work areas and other surfaces are clean, disinfected and clutter free.
- Upon learning of a positive COVID-19 individual that has been in any GJR School, GJR will immediately close down segregated assigned cohort area, conduct deep cleaning and disinfection operations no sooner than 24 hours after being made aware of the positive case. If more than seven days have passed since the person who is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection will not be required but routine cleaning and disinfection will continue.

- School health office cleaning will be conducted by health office staff after each use of cots, bathroom, and health office equipment (e.g. blood pressure cuffs, otoscopes, stethoscopes, etc.). Disposable items will be used as much as possible. These items include disposable pillow protectors, bed coverings, thermometers and specula's.

GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD will require that meals such lunch are provided and served in individual classrooms or work locations to eliminate large gatherings in the cafeteria. Staff members will be supplied with additional garbage and recycling receptacles which will be collected throughout the day and dumped by Custodial staff.

Management of Ill Persons:

- Students and staff members with symptoms of illness must contact the nurse's office where the nurse will assess the person's symptoms. If the nurse or medical director is not available, the staff or student will be isolated until the nurse is available to assess individuals to determine if it is a chronic condition such as asthma and allergies or chronic gastrointestinal conditions may present the same symptoms as COVID-19 but are neither contagious nor pose a public health threat.
- If a staff member or student becomes ill with symptoms of COVID-19 at school, the person will be excused from the school and sent home / residential unit immediately, in a safe and proper conveyance. The nurse and/or medical director will be immediately notified and will notify the local health department. The medical director or other health professionals (i.e. nurse) acting upon the direction or referral of the director, may make such evaluations of students, teachers and any other school employees, in their discretion, that they may deem necessary to protect the health of the school community.
- While waiting in the school facility for discharge or to be sent home, any students exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms at school will be placed in a designated separate isolation room. If a separate isolation room is not available, all individuals should be kept at least 6 feet from the student and the student should be asked to wear a mask if they can tolerate it and it does not cause breathing difficulties. Students should be escorted from the isolation room directly to the parent/guardian/agency staff and the parent/guardian should be instructed to contact their healthcare provider or follow-up and evaluation with a local clinic or urgent care center.
- GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD will comply with CDC guidance and not conduct COVID-19 testing or require testing or antibody testing of students or staff members. The decision of whether a test needs to be conducted should be determined by a healthcare provider or the local department of health. Students and staff members exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 should be encouraged to contact their personal healthcare provider for assessment and follow-up.

Contact Tracing

- GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD will work the local public health department and officials to trace all persons who had contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 of any individual that may have been present at GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD who has tested positive for COVID 19.
- These tracing efforts will only apply to students and staff members of GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD.
- If an employee tests positive for COVID-19, GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD will immediately cooperate with contact tracing efforts, including notification of potential contacts, such as other employees or visitors who had close contact with the individual. Confidentiality will be exercised and maintained for all reporting and tracing efforts as required by state and federal laws and regulations.

Return to School after Illness:

- GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD will follow CDC guidance for allowing a student or staff member to return to school after exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. If a person is not diagnosed by a healthcare provider (physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant) with COVID-19 they can return to school:
 1. Once there is no fever, without the use of fever reducing medicines, and they have felt well for 24 hours;
 2. If they have been diagnosed with another condition and has a healthcare provider written note stating, they are clear to return to school.
- If a person is diagnosed with COVID-19 by a healthcare provider based on a test or related symptoms OR has not been tested, but is positive for related symptoms, they should not be at school and should stay at home until:
 1. It has been at least ten days since the individual first had symptoms;
 2. It has been at least three days since the individual has had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); and
 3. It has been at least three days since the individual's symptoms improved, including cough and shortness of breath.

Closure Considerations

When a person has been identified (confirmed) or suspected to be COVID-19 positive; the process at GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD could include:

- Having school administrators collaborate and coordinate with local health officials to make school closure and large event cancellation decisions.
- Establish a plan to close schools again for physical attendance of students, if necessary, based on public health guidance and in coordination with the local DOH. Establishing a decision-making tree at GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD.

- Develop a plan for continuity of education, medical and social services, and meal programs and establish alternate mechanisms for these to continue.
- Implement as needed short-term closure procedures regardless of community spread if an infected person has been in a school building. If this happens, CDC recommends the following procedures:
 - Closing off areas used by ill person(s) and locking off area(s), signage can also be used to ensure no one enters the area. If possible, wait 24 hours before you clean and disinfect. If it is not possible to wait 24 hours, wait as long as possible. Do not use the area(s) until cleaning and disinfection has taken place.
 - Opening outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area.
 - Cleaning staff should clean and disinfect all areas (e.g., offices, bathrooms, and common areas) used by the ill person(s), focusing especially on frequently touched surfaces.
 - Communicating as soon as possible with staff, parents, and students.
- Using DOH guidance/procedures for when someone tests positive.
 - In consultation with the local DOH, a school official may consider whether school closure is warranted and period of time (prior to re-opening) based on the risk level within the specific community as determined by the local DOH.
 - In accordance with guidance for quarantine at home after close contact, the classroom or office where the COVID-19-positive individual was based will typically need to close temporarily as students or staff quarantine.
 - Additional close contacts at school outside of a classroom should also quarantine at home.
- Since GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD serves students from multiple school districts, closing of school could be a regional decision. Plus, it could be a regional decision based on NYS identified metrics:
 - NYS Dashboard
 - Schools will reopen if a region is in Phase IV and the daily infection rate remains below 5% using a 14-day average
 - Schools will close if the regional infection rate is greater than 9% using a 7-day average after August 1, 2020
- Thresholds will be determined on a case-by-case basis dependent on the numbers (school closures may be a response).
- Buildings may consider closing if required cleaning products (bleach and water can be used as a cleaning product) and PPE are not available

IV. Facilities

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 infection in GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD, facilities operations will be geared toward meeting social distancing requirements and cleaning frequently touched spaces regularly. In carrying out projects or tasks supporting infection control, requirements will be met for changes associated with building spaces. Plans for changes or additions to facilities that require review by the Office of Facilities Planning (OFP), will be submitted to comply with the requirements of the 2020 New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code (BC) and the State Energy Conservation Code.

The function, position and operation of corridor doors, which have closers with automatic hold opens (and are automatically released by the fire alarm system), will remain unchanged.

The GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD (GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD) plans to meet the deadline for submission of Building Condition Survey or Visual Inspections on time. In addition, lead in water sampling will be carried out upon the reopening of school under conditions consistent with when the building is “normally occupied.”

Upon reopening, GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD plans to increase ventilation, to the greatest extent possible. Water systems will be flushed in buildings that have been unoccupied.

Emergency Response Protocols & Drills

The 2020-2021 school year may include hybrid models of the traditional school day. Emergency response drills, including evacuation and lockdown drills, may be spread across the different student populations dependent on the day each population is present the day the drills are scheduled.

Emergency Response Protocols

- Shelter-In-Place
- Hold-In-Place
- Evacuation
- Lockout
- Lockdown

Shelter-In-Place

Areas will be identified in each school that will be used for the Shelter-in-Place along with areas that cannot be used for due to certain types of environmental hazards (i.e.: high winds, tornado, etc.).

Shelter-In-Place protocols will be the same with the following changes:

- Provide 6 feet of space between students and staff during the Shelter-In-Place
- Use of face coverings throughout the event may be considered
- If 6 feet between staff and students cannot be achieved, face coverings should be worn at all times during the event
- Plan to have extra face coverings on hand in the event that a person does not have one
- Listen for updates and respond accordingly

Hold-In-Place

Hold-In-Place protocols will be the same the following changes:

- Provide 6 feet of space between students and staff during the Hold-In-Place
- Use of face coverings throughout the event may be considered
- If 6 feet between people cannot be achieved, face coverings should be worn at all times during the event
- Plan to have extra face coverings on hand in the event that a person does not have one
- Listen for updates and respond accordingly

Evacuate

Evacuation protocols will be routinely the same with some minor adjustments:

- Identify areas outside of the building in advance that will allow 6 feet of separation of students and staff. Verify that students and staff will not impede emergency responders
- In effort to get all staff and students out of the building as quickly and efficiently as possible, face coverings should be worn at all times
- Plan to have extra face coverings on hand in the event that a person does not have one
- Identify, in advance, who will be holding the door to get out of the building, therefore reducing the amount of people touching the door hardware when leaving the building. Personnel that will be conducting this task may be assigned to holding the door for one or more classrooms or until confirmation that everyone has vacated the building
- As written in the established protocols, bring all necessary items needed and consider adding the following items: extra face coverings, in the event a face covering becomes unusable and hand sanitizer
- If no extra face coverings are available, instruct anyone that does not have a face covering to use their shirt to cover their nose and mouth during the event

Lockout

Lockout protocols will be the same, besides maintaining six (6) feet of space between students and staff in the area.

Lockdown

During a Lockdown, there will be a violation of the six (6) foot recommendation between people. In order to protect life safety, lockdown protocols will be mostly the same process as they have been conducted in the past.

- Evaluate, in advance, if there is room to social distance without being in the line of sight
- Face coverings should be worn during the event at all times
- Plan to have extra face coverings on hand in the event that a person does not have one
- Instruct anyone that does not have a face covering to use their shirt to cover their nose and mouth during the event

V. Child Nutrition

GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD (GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD) will follow SFA policies when communicating about school meal services, eligibility, options and changes in operations. All meals provided during the public health emergency will be available at no cost to all children. All communications will be provided through a variety of communication methods including website, emails, and regular mail and translated into the languages spoken by families.

For information about how meal information will be communicated, visit the Communication/Family and Community Engagement section of our reopening plan.

Meals On-site

For students on-site, meals will be provided while maintaining appropriate social distancing between students. Students do not need to wear face coverings when seated and eating so long as they are appropriately socially distanced.

- Food allergies will be monitored by food service personnel and the health office as they become known, as has been our procedure.
- Pre-wrapped plastic ware will be used for student lunches.
- Staff will be provided a time to go to the cafeteria for pickup of student meals. The cafeteria will be marked for social distancing.
- Students will be provided breakfast at the cottage and lunch in person
 - Lunch will happen in classrooms or reboot rooms to decrease gathering and mixing of cohorts.
 - Staff will gather student lunches in collaboration with food service personnel
 - Teachers will implement hand washing instruction and procedures before and after food service. Teachers will ensure that students use soap, wash for 20 seconds and dispose of their materials properly.

VI. Transportation

Although the bulk of transportation of students to our campus is conducted by component school districts and residential unit vans, GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD will conduct its transportation activities that are consistent with state-issued public transit guidance and NYSED School Reopening guidelines. GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD will limit or minimize non-essential travel and field trips as much as possible. However, in the event that a GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD school van is needed for use to transport students/passengers to their cottage, to vocational programs, to-and-from the campus or special field trips, the following procedures will apply:

- Staff members should ensure that any students that will be transported on any GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD van should be screened prior to being allowed to board any GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD van for symptoms of COVID-19 and not be allowed on the van if they exhibit COVID-19 symptoms.
- GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD staff will be provided with appropriate PPE that should be used in the process of picking-up, loading and unloading/discharging passengers. Masks will be provided and must be worn by the staff on the van at all times when passengers are on the bus. Hand sanitizer will be available for drivers in the school and is not allowed to be carried on any school van. Disinfectant wipes and gloves will be provided and carried on the school van. Staff members may choose to wear protective gloves but are not required to do so.
- Students should wear a face covering while on the school bus if physically able to do so. Face coverings/masks will be provided by GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD as needed.
- At the end of each trip and/or when the van is returned to its parking location the staff will be responsible to clean the van and disinfect it with disinfectant products supplied by GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD. The driver is responsible for:
 - Cleaning and disinfecting all commonly touched surfaces in the vehicle (i.e. steering wheel, dashboard knobs, shifting lever, heat and air conditioner vents, window controls, door controls and locks, etc.).
 - Vehicle doors and windows should be open while cleaning and disinfection work is taking place.
- If it is determined that a van has transported an individual that tested positive for COVID-19 or has exhibited symptoms of COVID-19, a 24-hour waiting period must occur before the van is cleaned and disinfected. Affected van can be used immediately after cleaning and disinfection.

Transportation Communication

- GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD (GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD) will communicate with parents and students that student transportation vehicles are included in GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD' COVID-19 plans and what part students and parents will play in ensuring

safety and minimizing infection while utilizing GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD transportation services

Loading/Unloading & Pickup/Drop-off

- Dismissal times will be staggered to best suit building needs and to promote social distancing
- Adjustments will be made by program:
 - For unloading and entry, and loading and departure
 - Arrival and departure activities shall be supervised to ensure social distancing

VII. Social Emotional Well-Being

In planning for our re-entry in September, GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD has formed a subgroup of the Re-opening Task Force to examine the guidance provided by the Department of Health and NYSED for our re-entry in the Fall. Our work is grounded in our beliefs the most equitable opportunities for educational success rely upon the comprehensive support for students and families provided in our schools with our professionals and the systems of support we have built. These supports include academics as well as the social and emotional well-being of our students. We are committed to prioritizing social emotional well-being - not at the expense of academics, but in order to create the mental, social and emotional space to access rigorous academic content with confidence. In support of this belief, a Social-Emotional Learning team was created consisting of certified teachers, certified school counselors, licensed mental health professionals and school administrators. This task force team was created to develop a cohesive and strategic plan, regardless of the re-entry phase, to support students and staff upon for the 2020-2021 school year; this includes a means to identify and actively support student and staff well-being and mental health concerns through a range of pre-determined tactics to be employed by those dealing with difficult situations. This plan will focus specifically on how to best support students and staff in a blended learning model scenario, which includes a mix of both in-person and virtual classroom instruction. This plan includes considerations for teams to rapidly transition between face-to-face and continuous remote learning, which may be required based on the pandemic.

Research shows the importance of mental and emotional well-being for students and staff, which has both psychological and ultimately academic outcomes. We know, after this prolonged closure, many of our students and staff will require social-emotional supports to help them re-engage and re-enter work and school. GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD our commitment is to create emotionally and physically safe, supportive and engaging learning environments promoting all students' social and emotional well-being and development. The pandemic has elevated the role of leaders in creating conditions helping students practice empathy, create social bonds across distance and adapt to new learning experiences. Counselors, school-based health programs, and wrap around supports will play an extremely important role in the adjustment period when buildings reopen and access to school counselors and school-based health programs will be invaluable supports to our students. It will be critical to determine students who might be at risk for needing mental health supports. School counselors and administrators will be equipped with tools and information needed to see each child through a social emotional lens. We remain committed to supporting all students and maintain our whole child commitment as well as equipping all staff to connect, heal, and build capacity to support our students. Supports will include:

- Subgroup planning related to the following:
 - Restorative practices
 - Staff surveys
 - Scripts for discussing trauma and concerns related to the pandemic
 - Resources for community and on campus mental health supports
 - Frequent and clear communication with families about the plans, implementation and contribution.

- Time, resources, and social emotional support will be provided to help staff take better care of themselves in order to better care for students.
 - Using restorative practices with staff
 - Providing professional development with choice and autonomy for those who have the capacity
 - Communicating the plans for reentry and the organization’s plans in relating to staff in regard to human capital, safety and childcare.

Additionally, all GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD employees have access to the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) which offers many free services including face-to-face and virtual counseling. Information about all social-emotional supports will be made widely available to the GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD community through our communication channels and through resources found on our website. We are committed to developing/making accessible family/caregiver-appropriate social and emotional learning (SEL) content to be used during all phases of our re-entry.

GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD will support transitions in a culturally responsive manner and engage students, families, and communities in the process of identifying needs and supports.

What Mental Health Professionals can do in schools?

- Educate staff, parents, and students on symptoms of mental health needs and how to obtain assistance
- Promote social emotional learning competency and build resilience
- Help ensure a positive, safe school environment
- Teach and reinforce positive behaviors and decision-making
- Encourage good physical health
- Help ensure access to school-based mental health supports; facilitate the expansion of school-based mental health supports

VIII. School Schedules

GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD, as a service provider, has developed program schedules for delivery of instruction based on the in person model. This means that coursework will be developed, housed and primarily delivered with direct instruction when students are allowed to be present in school. This model allows for flexibility for students who need to receive instruction remotely due to COVID-19 considerations or if infections or infection rates force another in person school closure. With this in mind, here are the various scheduling considerations for GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD Staggered start and end to the school day.

Each bus assigned a designated drop off area and students are assigned an entrance into the building. Staff are assigned to monitor each entry point (up to 4) to decrease the number of students and increase flow.

- Scheduled times for students to practice handwashing (before and after breakfast and lunch, between activities, following using the bathroom, before and after using the recreational spaces, etc.)
- Recreational space time will be scheduled
- Outdoor learning spaces will be available when reserved
- Support spaces will be closed and adults reassigned with access to the spaces by one adult and one student at a time.

For information about how school schedule information will be communicated to students, families and staff members, visit the *Communication section* of our reopening plan.

IX. Attendance, Attendance Reporting and Chronic Absenteeism

Attendance and Attendance Reporting

The GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD will take daily attendance whether school opens in September in-person, hybrid or remote. Attendance policies and procedures will be communicated with families and students prior to the start of the school year or if the instructional model changes during the year. Communication will take the form building level parent, emails, or text messaging. Teachers will record daily attendance in School Tool, our student management system, based on the required daily scheduled student contact and engagement. Daily reports will be generated to identify students who are absent and/or chronically absent. Contact with the families will be made daily to determine reasons for absence and needs or barriers the student may have to participate in daily lessons.

GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD Attendance guidelines for Day School students:

- Students who: turn in work, log in to an online work session, log onto an online therapy session, make contact with instruction or non-instructional staff during the school hours and/or attend in person will be marked as present. Students who do not have consistent internet connectivity will be expected to send a picture or accept a phone call in order to count toward their presence during online instruction.
- Staff will be made aware of the role of educational neglect during the pandemic.

Chronic Absenteeism

While there is no one-size-fits all approach to addressing chronic absenteeism, GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD (GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD) is committed to providing interventions to prevent and address health-related and mental health chronic absenteeism. We recognize that many factors will influence student attendance and may be greatly impacted by the instructional models provided; in-person, hybrid, and remote.

The GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD addresses chronic absenteeism as follows.

1. Nurture a culture of attendance

- Communicate clearly to families and students what the attendance policy is and expectations for participating based on the model of instruction
- Explain the importance of attendance to the entire school community
- Track daily attendance, tardiness, and student engagement in one central, secure location with a tool that helps you can quickly see how these data points impact student behavior.

2. Early Identification and Intervention

- Each school regularly monitors attendance data and communicates with parents about issues as they arise.
- Use data to identify which students are at risk, so you can intervene before isolated absences become chronic absenteeism.
- Establish intervention plans; parent phone call, home visit, counseling, instructional modifications, engage community partners, etc.

3. Create a more positive school culture and a focus on engaging instruction

- Evaluate and address your students' engagement in learning
- Provide teachers and school leaders with multiple levels of support to help students stay more engaged and act positively.
- Help students achieve positive social and emotional character development, while reinforcing the behaviors that make up your ideal school culture.
- Use goal-based incentives and rewards to motivate attendance and positive student behaviors where age appropriate.

X. Technology and Connectivity

Access to technology is essential for the successful roll-out of this plan. The GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD has been committed to ongoing planning and implementation of district technologies to ensure equitable access for staff and students.

During the school closure, GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD was able to gather data and asked teachers and families to identify their level of access to devices and high-speed broadband from their residence. GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD will continue to assess the ongoing needs of our families for technology and connectivity (survey, interviews, school outreach, etc.) In the event, students and/or teachers do not have access, GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD will take the necessary steps to meet their needs where plausible.

Specific Activities:

- GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD staff will work with families and districts to ensure stable and reliable internet access for all students, when/where possible
- Utilize Google classroom to load content. This platform may also be deployed when in person in order to ensure/teach virtual learner skills.
- Provide educators with professional development
 - Google suite
 - PDF editor
 - Progress monitoring in-person and remotely
- Access for students and families to teachers for IT support
- Utilize a video and curricula library so that others can access materials and resources.
- May use video conferencing platforms for recording lessons

XI. Teaching and Learning

In an effort to assure high-quality teaching and learning a continuity of learning plan has been developed for the 2020-21 school year. This on campus in person virtual plan considers and plans for teaching and learning in-person, remotely, and through hybrid models of instruction. Our plan assures that Instruction is aligned with the New York State Learning Standards and assures equity as well as quality for all learners.

Equity is at the heart of all school instructional decisions. All instruction in our district will be designed so that whether it is delivered in-person, remotely, or through a hybrid model due to a local or state school closure, there are clear, comprehensive, and accessible learning opportunities for all students. Such opportunities will be aligned with state standards. Our teaching and instructional plan outlines routine, scheduled times for students to interact and seek feedback and support from their teachers. Our plan is centered on Instruction and academic programming that includes regular and substantive interaction with an appropriately certified teacher regardless of the delivery method (e.g., in person, remote or hybrid). Our teaching and learning plan includes a clear communication plan for how students and their families/caregivers can contact the school and teachers with questions about their instruction and/or technology. This information will be accessible to all, available in multiple languages, widely disseminated, and include clear and multiple ways for students and families to contact schools and teachers (e.g., email, online platform, and/or by phone) in an effort to assure learning for all.

The school calendar typically includes one day before students arrive at school. Acknowledging the challenges that our teachers and staff have faced this spring delivering remote instruction under stressful circumstances, GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD will focus this in-service day on providing support to staff in the areas of social-emotional health, restorative practices and health and safety protocols as they pertain to the utilization of the building.

As we enter the new school year, teachers will be encouraged to spend time building relationships, supporting students with the transition back to school, and teaching social distancing etiquette at developmentally appropriate levels.

Assessing student learning gaps or areas of need will be critical. Formative assessment before a unit of instruction to assess student understanding of pre-requisite skills will be common practice.

Acknowledging that the typical content in a given grade level or course may need to be adjusted, content will be prioritized to ensure that students receive instruction for the prioritized learning standards, key understandings, and skills necessary for students' success in future study.

Grading practices will be designed to provide direct feedback regarding students' mastery of course content.

In-person Instruction

Class size will reflect the need to ensure that students' desks/seats are positioned no less than six feet apart.

All instruction will continue to be aligned to the New York State Learning Standards.

Our programs will minimize the movement of students. This potentially means having students eat lunch in their classroom instead of the cafeteria and eliminating assemblies, field trips and other large-group activities. Special-area subjects (e.g., art, music, physical education) may be pushed into the classroom. Whenever possible, students will utilize outside space for physical education instruction. We will adhere to 12 feet between students when engaging in physical activity.

To the extent possible, students will remain in small cohorts if/when leaving the classroom, such as for recreation or any necessary transition to reduce their exposure to additional students.

Remote Instruction

Given the possibility that communities may experience spikes in COVID-19 cases at any point during the school year, which may prompt short or long-term school closures, GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD has developed an in person, at the residential unit and a schedule that can continue as is if students were still in the educational environment.

Instruction will not only focus on “core” subject areas to the exclusion of elective courses. Consideration has been given to prioritizing hands-on and lab-based activities while students are onsite in school buildings. All instruction will continue to be aligned to the New York State Learning Standards.

Remote learning opportunities for secondary students may include an emphasis on synchronous instruction, with teachers finding ways to provide live instruction and lessons to students.

To ensure high-quality remote learning experiences, we will standardize the use of an online learning platform, to the extent possible, and develop a common, coordinated set of guidelines for teachers to follow when using the platform with students.

Grading practices will be designed to provide direct feedback regarding students’ mastery of course content.

For information about how remote instruction information will be communicated to students and families, visit the Communication/Family and Community Engagement section of our reopening plan.

Extracurricular Activities

GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD will be putting a pause on all extracurricular activities during the reopening period. This will be reviewed periodically after school re-opening.

XII. Special Education

GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD reopening plan provides a framework to ensure that all students with disabilities continue to have available to them a free appropriate public education (FAPE) that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living in the least restrictive environment (LRE). As a special education service provider, our plans reflect the services provided to special education students on behalf of our sending districts. In consideration of the health, safety, and well-being of students, families, and staff, our plan is designed to enable transitioning between in-person, remote, and hybrid learning environments to ensure the provision of FAPE consistent with the changing health and safety conditions that exist.

Special education programs and services of the GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD provide equity and access for students with disabilities to be involved in and to participate and progress in the general education curriculum with access to the necessary accommodations, modifications, supplementary aids and services, and technology (including assistive technology) to meet the unique disability related needs of students. While not all formats allow for maximum benefit to students, these programs and services can be provided in all formats (live-person, hybrid, or remote). GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD will document the programs and services offered and provided to students with disabilities as well as to the communications with parents in their preferred language and mode of communication. GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD will ensure access to the necessary accommodations, modifications, supplementary aids and services, and technology (including assistive technology) to meet the unique disability related needs of students.

GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD is committed to providing meaningful parent engagement in the parent's preferred language or mode of communication regarding the provision of services to his/her child to meet the requirements of the IDEA. Further, we will maintain regular communication with the parents/guardians/agency staff to ensure that they are engaged in their children's education during the reopening process

GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD will maintain records to document the implementation of each IEP. The documentation will include, but will not be limited to: narrative records of how the student is adjusting to live, hybrid, and remote instruction during 2020-21, a record of what instruction and services were provided, a record of formative, summative, and standardized assessments and their results as well as progress monitoring documentation, a record of school-family collaboration, and the provision of any compensatory services records.

XIII. Bilingual Education and World Languages

Support of English language learners (ELLs) at GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD will be comprehensive, high-quality, and culturally responsive.

GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD is committed to comprehensive, high-quality, and culturally responsive instruction for ENL students, we will provide the required instructional Units of Study to all ELLs based on their most recently measured English language proficiency level during in-person or hybrid instruction. Further, we will maintain regular communication with the parents/guardians and other family members of ELLs to ensure that they are engaged in their children's education during the reopening process which includes telephone contact, text messages, emails and regular mail in their preferred language. We will provide all communications for parents/guardians of ELLs in their preferred language and mode of communication.

GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD will provide professional learning opportunities for our teachers that support best practices and equitable instruction for ELLs as well as general education students to help address learning gaps caused by the COVID-19 school closures.

In order to assure that students, have opportunities to study world languages we are prepared to teach in the in-person, hybrid, or remote format upon reopening. GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD will support our students as they work towards earning the New York States Seal of Biliteracy.

XIV. Teacher & Principal Evaluation System

Teacher and Principal Evaluation System

All teachers and principals will continue to be evaluated pursuant to GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD's approved APPR plan. GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD will consider whether their currently approved APPR plans may need to be revised in order to be consistent with their plans for re-opening under an in-person, remote or hybrid instructional model. School leaders will continue to attend annually required Lead Evaluator training.

XV. Certification, Incidental & Substitute Teaching

Certification, Incidental Teaching and Substitute Teaching

All teachers will hold valid and appropriate certificates for teaching assignment, except where otherwise allowable under the Commissioner's regulations (e.g., incidental teaching) or education law.

Student Teachers

Student teachers from NYSED registered college or university programs can serve under the supervision of fully certified teachers in GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC UFSD. Student teachers will follow all of the social distancing, mask wearing, health status reporting, and other COVID-19 procedures that the teachers follow. Student teachers will serve under the supervision of our full-time certified teachers only. At no time will a student teacher be used as a teacher of record.

Key References

- [State Education Department Issues Guidance to Reopen New York State Schools \(July 16, 2020\)](#)
- [State Education Department Presents Framework of Guidance to Reopen New York State Schools \(July 13, 2020\)](#)
- [Interim Guidance for In-Person Instruction at Pre-K to Grade 12 Schools During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, NYS Department of Health \(July 13, 2020\)](#)

Additional References

- [Interim Guidance for Sports and Recreation During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency \(June 26, 2020\)](#)
- [Interim Guidance for Food Services during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. \(June 26, 2020\)](#)
- [Interim Guidance for Office-Based Work during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. \(June 26, 2020\)](#)
- [Interim Guidance for Public Transportation Activities during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. \(June 26, 2020\)](#)
- [New York State Department of Health Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [New York State Education Department Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Occupational Safety and Health Administration COVID-19 Website](#)