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The Honorable Governor Gary Herbert
Utah State Capitol Complex
350 North State Street, Suite 200
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Dear Governor Herbert:

As you work to finalize guidance for schools to re-open in the fall, UEA asks you to incorporate the attached requirements and recommendations to ensure the health and safety of students and employees across the state.

In a time of teacher shortage, the state must establish clear requirements to ensure educators feel confident and safe returning to their classroom. Additionally, clear requirements ensure teachers can focus on teaching rather than enforcing inconsistent or arbitrary policies like when and where students wear masks or maintaining six feet of physical separation between the teacher and student or among students. And with new health and safety expectations for schools, it is important to clarify how CARES Act and other monies will be made available to ensure schools can implement all necessary safety precautions. Finally, it is critical to emphasize that current CDC guidelines for re-opening schools recommend re-opening occur only in areas where 1) there is a downward trajectory of documented cases within a 14-day period or downward trajectory of positive tests as a percent of total tests within a 14-day period (flat or increasing volume of tests) and 2) there is adequate testing and contact tracing available to isolate any outbreaks.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Heidi Matthews, M.Ed.

CC: Tami Pyfer, Education Advisor to the Governor
Karen Peterson, Education Policy Specialist
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