

I. 2019-2020 School Year Successes and Challenges

a. Successes

- <3.5% of students were defined as chronically absent (having missed 18 or more days of school) prior to the COVID-19 school closure
- 95% student retention (re-enrollment)
- 95% staff retention from 19-20 to 20-21
- UCS received over \$500,000 in grants and private donations/fundraising efforts
- Target enrollment met for 2109-2020 (440 students)
- 63% of K-3 students benchmarked on the DIBELS assessment in December of 2019. This was a 7% overall increase from the August diagnostic assessment.
- Successfully created and implemented a [5 year strategic plan](#)
- Successfully received Cognia Accreditation on June 18, 2019
- UCS Teacher, Morgan Allen, was named 2019 Environmental Conservation Teacher of the Year
- Proud recipient of a 2019 Character.org Promising Practice for outstanding programs designed to enhance approached taken regarding character education.
- UCS was named a 2019-2020 Be Healthy School designated by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama
- State Superintendent, Dr. Eric Mackey, visited UCS on December 2, 2019
- Recipient of \$30,000 ALSDE Gifted Education grant to implement Project Lead the Way for all K-5 students at UCS
- Successfully met all mission specific goals and targets

b. Challenges:

- Due to the COVID-19 closure, we faced many of the same challenge as other schools including:
 - a) Lack of state and local student assessment data needed to effectively drive instructional practices
 - b) Many challenges related to an abrupt shift to distance learning including meeting the needs of the whole child, virtually
 - c) Maintaining student and staff culture and climate in a virtual world
 - d) Maintaining parent relationships and culture and climate in a virtual world

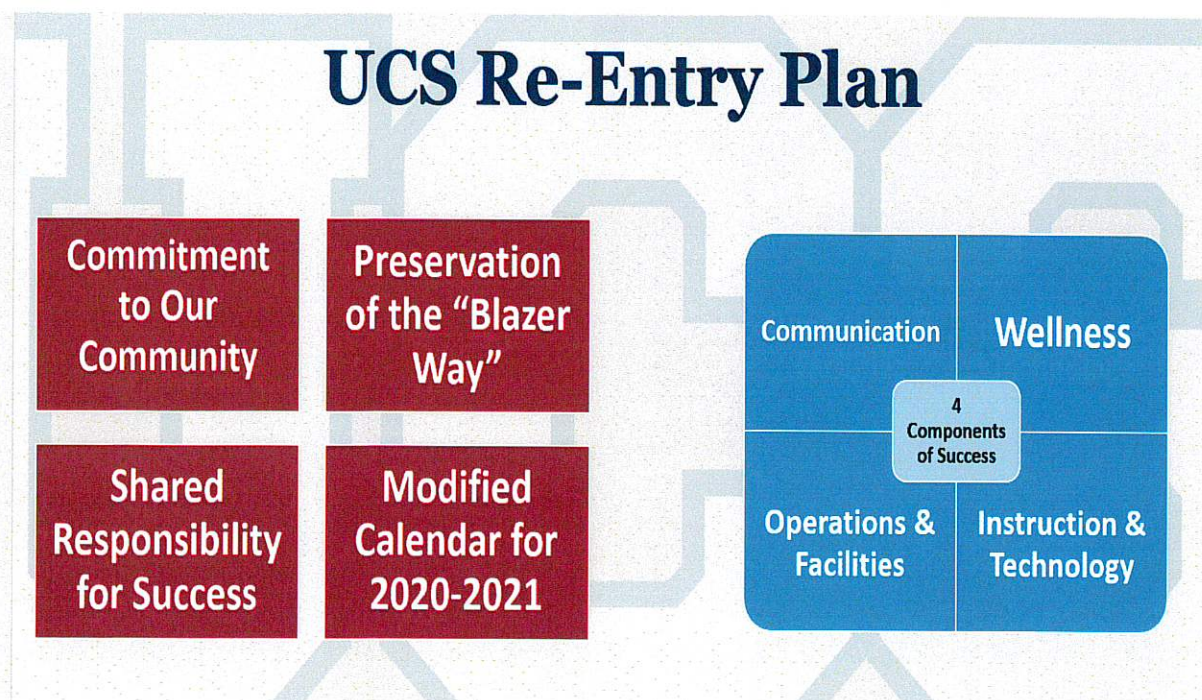
II. 2019-2020 Mission Specific Goals and Progress Made

Type	Indicator	Metric	Below	Meets	Exceeds	UCS 2019-2020
APCSC Mission Specific Goal	High Quality Rural Experience	Percent of full-time teachers completing 10 hours of high quality rural focused PD	0-89%	90%	91-100%	100%
APCSC Mission Specific Goal	Place-based Educational Model	% of community representatives that report a positive impact from the place-based model	0-84%	85%	86-100%	92%
APCSC Mission Specific Goal	Character Education Program	% of classrooms engaged in a minimum of 100 minute of character education instruction per week	0-89%	90%	91-100%	100%

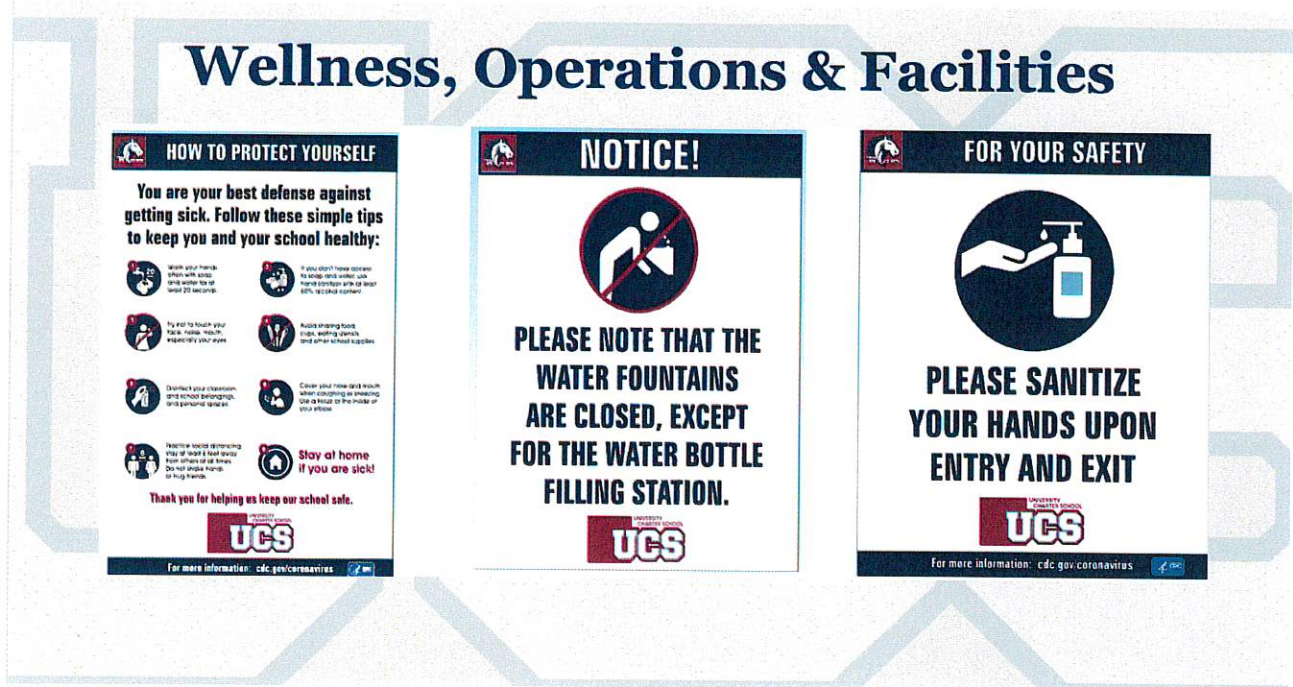
III. Re-opening Scenarios and the 2020-2021 School Year

a. UCS 2019-2020 Re-Entry Plan

- After the school closures in Alabama in March/April of 2020, as a school community and UCS family we really began to embrace our core values of compassion, integrity and mostly PERSEVERANCE. After all, Perseverance during hard times is where **personal GROWTH happens**.

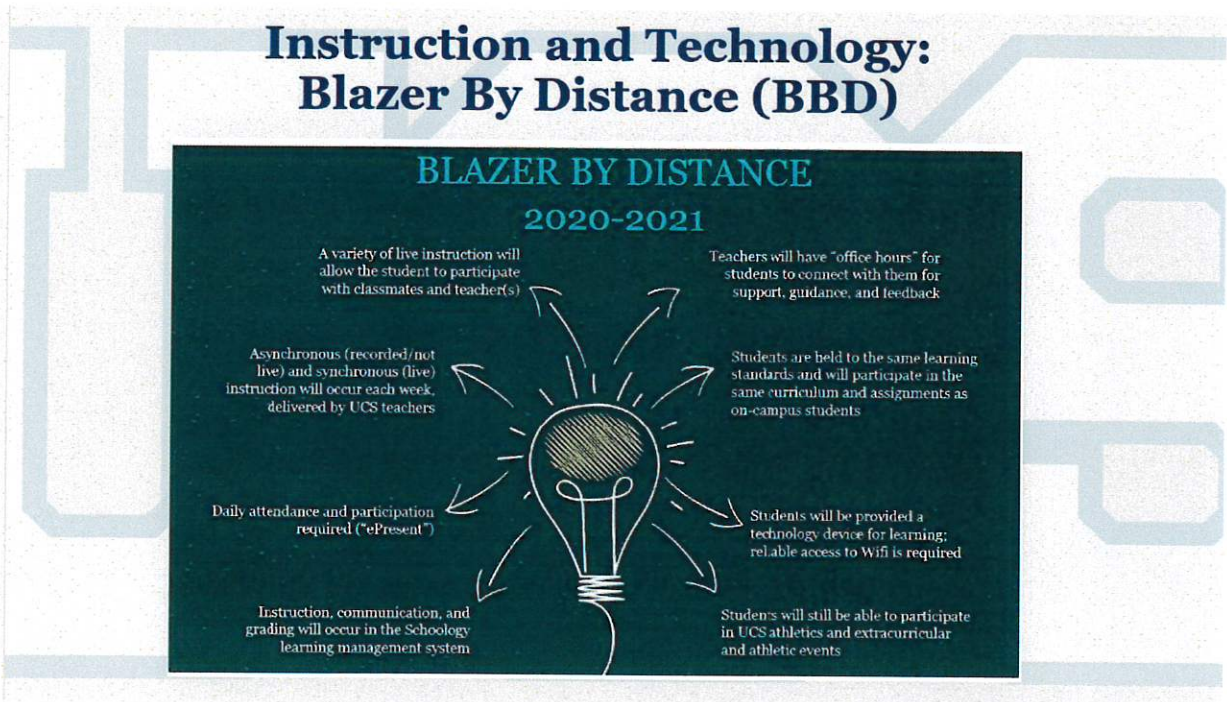


Wellness, Operations & Facilities



- **Commitment to our community and preservation of the « Blazer Way » :** After much consideration, research and surveying of our community we decided to open our doors to in-person instruction for a few reasons:
 - a) Not only is UCS an important part of the infrastructure of our community, we also understand and value the critical role that UCS plays in supporting the whole child, not just their academic achievement.
 - b) Extended school closures not only disrupt the delivery of in-person instruction, but also disrupt the delivery of critical services to children and families, which has very negative individual and social ramifications.
 - c) Risks of children contracting the virus was lowest among the groups analyzed at the time
 - d) ~54% of UCS parents selected in-person instruction for their learning environment selection during our final summer survey.

- We also offered **Blazer By Distance (BBD)**/virtual option for parents and students that didn't feel comfortable returning to the facility at this time and have the resources to school their students from home.



- **Shared responsibility for success: School, Parents, Students**
- **Modified calendar for 2020-2021**, increase PD days for teachers to prepare for COVID protocols and virtual learning, delayed start for students, built in virtual days for all students
- **Opening Day, August 19, 2020**

Opening Day: August 19, 2020

August 19, 2020: Student Enrollment 495

- BBD-228 (46%)
- Traditional-267 (54%)

October 26, 2020: Student Enrollment 516

- BBD-128 (25%)
- Traditional-388 (75%)