

Pittsylvania County Schools

LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

This plan has been developed to comply with Section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act and U.S. Department of Education's Interim Final Rule requiring each LEA that receives ARP ESSER III funds to submit a plan that describes how it will safely return to in-person instruction and ensure continuity of services, including LEAs that have already returned to in-person instruction.

Section 1: Introduction

The purpose of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Fund is to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impacts of COVID-19 on the nation's students by addressing students' **academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs**. This plan describes how **Pittsylvania County Schools** will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and division staff during and following the **return to full in-person instruction five days per week for the 2021-2022 school year**.

Questions regarding the academic instructional component under Section 3 of this plan should be directed to Teresa Petty, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, at the following email address: teresa.petty@pcs.k12.va.us.

Questions regarding the health and safety, social, emotional, and mental health components of the plan should be directed to Robin Haymore, Assistant Superintendent for Support Services, at the following email address: robin.haymore@pcs.k12.va.us.

[The LEA has included a summary of its response to COVID-19 in links embedded within this document under Section 2 and Section 3.]

Section 2: Maintaining Health and Safety

Pittsylvania County Schools (PCS) has taken and will continue to take actions to ensure the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and division staff during and following the **return to full in-person instruction five days per week for the 2021-2022 school year**.

Additional guidance for the 2021-2022 school year is forthcoming, following expected updates in guidance from the CDC, VDH, and VDOE which is anticipated in the near future. After updates are published, PCS will issue revised guidance for the 2021-2022 school year.

- **Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks**

The State Health Commissioner has issued a [Public Health Order](#) requiring masks to be worn by all individuals age 5 and older in indoor instructional settings in Virginia schools until July 25th. The requirement is intended to be temporary in nature, and separate guidance is forthcoming for the 2021-2022 school year.

- **Modifying Facilities to Allow for Physical Distancing**

Every effort will be made to maintain appropriate distance between students, teachers, staff, and visitors.

- **Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette**

Schools will continue to teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer will be used.

Staff and students will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

- **Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities**

Cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces within the school and on school buses will be conducted to ensure cleanliness of all areas.

PCS will ensure that ventilation systems operate properly, increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible, and that ventilation is adequate when using cleaning and disinfection products to prevent inhalation of toxic fumes. Cleaning and disinfecting products will be safely used and stored.

- **Contact Tracing, Isolation and Quarantine**

School nurses are fluent in isolation and quarantine guidelines and received extensive training in contact tracing. This included a seven-hour John's Hopkins course along with a four hour in-person workshop. The Health Services department continues to work directly with the local health department to adjust guidelines and practices to ensure alignment with most recent guidance.

Community-specific data, as reported by the Virginia Department of Health, will continue to be monitored and reviewed daily by the division's COVID-19 Team. If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the school(s), the school division will work closely with the local health department to determine a course of action and appropriate notification.

- **Diagnostic and Screening Testing**

Students and staff will continue to monitor their wellness on a daily basis before reporting to school. Individuals with a temperature of 100.0°F or more

cannot return to school until fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications.

If necessary, students are referred to their healthcare provider for COVID-19 testing and/or screening as a result of the division's thorough contact tracing process.

- **Efforts to Provide Vaccinations to School Communities**

PCS sponsored a student vaccination clinic in June and continues to promote and notify families of community vaccination clinics.

In addition, COVID vaccines and mandated vaccines will be offered to students via the PATHS Mobile Health Clinic at multiple locations across the division.

- **Appropriate Accommodations for Children with Disabilities (with respect to health and safety policies)**

The previously established exemptions to the mask mandate continue under the new Public Health Order. This follows the expiration of [Executive Order 79](#), requiring students age 5 and older to wear masks when indoors in K-12 instructional settings, which expired at 11:59pm on Wednesday, June 30, at the end of the declared state of emergency.

- **Coordination with State and Local Health Officials**

Through all phases of reopening, Pittsylvania County Schools will follow guidance provided by the Governor's Office, the Virginia Department of Education, the Virginia Department of Health, and the Pittsylvania County Health Department. Community-specific data, as reported by the Virginia Department of Health, will continue to be monitored and reviewed daily by the division's COVID-19 Team. If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the school(s), the school division will work closely with the local health department to determine a course of action and appropriate notification. Any decision related to a reduction in in-person classes, a complete school closure, or a complete division closure will be based on guidance and direction from the Virginia Department of Health, and the Pittsylvania County Health Department.

Section 3: Continuity of Services

Pittsylvania County Schools has taken and will continue to take actions to ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs.

- **Academic**

A description of actions taken during the last school year (2020-2021) can be found [here](#).

During the 2021-2022 school year, Pittsylvania County Schools will follow a five-day, in-person, full-day instructional model allowing for the continuity of instruction that will adhere to the Virginia Department of Education's SOQ (Standards of Quality) guidelines addressing required hours for instructional time. As required under the guidelines of the ARP ESSER III grant, 20% of the funds will be utilized to address lost instruction through the implementation of evidence-based interventions outlined below. As a result of the tremendous impact of coronavirus, these funds will also help address the unique needs of economically disadvantaged students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, migratory students, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth. In addition, principals and other school leaders will be provided the resources necessary to address the needs of their individual schools; and all staff will be provided the appropriate training and professional development to support students with their academic and social-emotional needs.

Students will have the opportunity to participate in summer learning or enrichment during an extended summer school program. All elementary and middle school summer programs will be held June 21, 2021, - July 22, 2021, Monday through Thursday from 8:00 AM until 1:00 PM. Elementary and middle schools will not conduct classes July 5-9, 2021. The first summer school session for the high school program will be held June 9, 2021 – June 24, 2021; and the second session for the high school program will be held July 7, 2021, - July 22, 2021, from 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM, Monday through Thursday. Breakfast, lunch, and transportation will be provided.

Students will have the opportunity to participate in before school, in school, and afterschool, small group remediation/intervention tutoring sessions. Teachers will use data from pretests, diagnostic, and benchmark assessments to determine which students are in need of Tier II and Tier III instructional support. Classroom teachers, retired teachers, and trained paraprofessionals will provide the remediation/intervention services.

The school division will continue to utilize a multi-faceted approach to address learning loss among students. Teachers will continue administering high quality assessments that are valid and reliable to accurately assess students' academic progress and assist in meeting students' needs by differentiating instruction. Teachers will use evidence-based instructional strategies and activities to meet the comprehensive needs of all students and keep them actively engaged in learning. Administrators and teachers will provide information and assistance to parents and families regarding how they can effectively support students, including a distance learning environment where applicable. School staff will also track student attendance to ensure continuity of learning. Additionally, school staff will coordinate with community agencies to offer and provide targeted support to families as needed.

The school division will continue to have a coordinated plan in place to address continuity of instruction should any school closures become necessary in the upcoming school year. This plan will include providing meals to eligible students, coordinating technology for online learning, following guidance on IDEA

requirements, and ensuring the continuance of other educational services.

Learning modules via Google Classroom that will be transferred to the Canvas Learning Management System (LMS) will incorporate the existing Pacing Guides to address gaps in learning from the school closure and support continuous five-day lesson plans with spiral review. Teachers have identified the specific content that has not been taught and assessed via VDOE tracking sheets.

Learning modules include six-week instructional units with five-day weekly lesson plans to support academics during school closures. These modules will also help address instructional gaps and specific content not taught and assessed by incorporating learning modules into the existing school year schedule.

The learning modules provide course materials in a logical, sequential order, guiding students through the content and assessments in the order specified by the teacher. PowerPoints, formatted text, files, web links, discussion topics, assignments, tests, quizzes, and other types of assessments are embedded within the modules to support the instructional units and provide additional opportunities for remediation and/or enrichment.

Each learning module comprises six weeks of instructional units. The instructional units correlate with the PCS Pacing Guides and VDOE Curriculum Frameworks and include learning experiences to help students obtain mastery of the Standards of Learning (SOL). The Instruction Department will closely follow waivers and policy changes and inform stakeholders.

Providing quality learning opportunities that integrate essential knowledge and Virginia's 5 C skills (critical thinking, creative thinking, communication, collaboration, and citizenship) will continue to be a priority. Educators will deepen learning by focusing on the essential knowledge that students can engage in while at school and home.

• **Social-Emotional and Mental Health**

PCS continues to partner with families and community service providers to effectively address the mental health and social-emotional needs of students. As children have a variety of physical, mental, social, emotional, educational and developmental needs particularly during and after the COVID-19 events, providing effective help to students, staff and families requires sharing information across the many agencies and multiple systems that serve them.

Universally across PCS, positive behavioral matrices with school-wide expectations for overall conduct have been established. These guides for interpersonal relationships and supporting one another will continue to be modified as needs and instructional environments change. A behavioral matrix is

posted throughout each school building. Expectations are taught explicitly at the beginning of the year, refreshed formally after mid-year break, and refreshed and reinforced throughout the school year.

Supplemental supports will continue to be implemented and further developed during transition. School-based mental health professionals are trained to address social-emotional and mental wellness needs and identify needs that might require more intensive interventions.

- **Student Health**

All Pittsylvania County Schools maintain health clinic space(s) in order to ensure appropriate distance between students coming to the clinic for routine visits from those who are sick. First aid situations, to the greatest extent, should be handled by the student/teacher in the classroom to avoid congregation at the Nurse's Clinic and prevent possible exposure.

- **Food Services**

Pittsylvania County Schools' food services will continue to work to support the schools by serving meals in a manner that will enable students to comply with social distancing guidelines and other safety precautions.

Section 4: Opportunity for Public Comment

In developing the ARP ESSER Plan, **Pittsylvania County Schools** sought public input and took such input into account as described below.

The link to a brief [survey](#) below will be used for public input.

[The LEA's public comment process is described in the survey overview introductory paragraph.]

Section 5: Periodic Review and Revision of Plan

During the period of the ARP ESSER award (until September 2023), **Pittsylvania County Schools** will periodically review and, as needed, revise its plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. The plan will be reviewed at least every six months, and **Pittsylvania County Schools** will seek and take into account public input during the review process. Plan revisions will address updated CDC guidance on safely reopening schools, if any are issued.

Section 6: Making the Plan Available to the Public

Pittsylvania County Schools has taken the following steps to make this plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at [\(link\)](#)
- The plan will be available in Spanish.
- The plan may be orally translated for parents. Contact Mr. Todd Sease, Director of Elementary Education & Title III, Part A, Coordinator (todd.sease@pcs.k12.va.us) to request translation; and



PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY SCHOOLS

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Dr. Mark R. Jones
Division Superintendent

- Upon request, a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA may be provided with the plan in an alternative format accessible by contacting Mrs. Kim Clifton, Webmaster Digital Design Specialist (kim.clifton@pcs.k12.va.us).