

Lynchburg City Schools

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

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 Lynchburg City Schools (LCS) 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. Questions about this plan should be directed to ESSER@lcsedu.net.

SECTION 2: MAINTAINING HEALTH AND SAFETY

Lynchburg City Schools 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. Lynchburg City Schools developed a Health Mitigation Plan as part of the reopening of schools in August 2020. The plan is reviewed and updated regularly to reflect current guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), and the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), as well as to conform to requirements in the governor's Executive Orders. The plan is a summary of guiding practices and protocols regarding the safety of internal and external stakeholders, including the following:

- Personal hygiene for staff and students, including hand washing and respiratory etiquette
- Face coverings
- Physical distancing *to the greatest extent possible*
- School and classroom protocols, including physical layout and student cohorts
- Health screening guidelines for staff, students, and visitors
- Cleaning/disinfecting protocols
- COVID-19 monitoring, reporting, notification and response protocols (contact tracing, isolation, quarantine)
- Vaccinations to school communities in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Health and the City of Lynchburg. (Vaccination participants included: LCS staff and students, the City of Lynchburg employees, and community members).

The plan was developed by the LCS Students Services Department and the division's COVID Response Team in conjunction with the local Lynchburg Health Department and medical professionals from the community. The plan is posted on the division's [website](#) and is available to the public. LCS's Health and Safety Mitigation Plan will be reviewed at least quarterly to ensure alignment with CDC and other agency guidance.

In addition, Lynchburg City Schools has adopted policies on each of the following safety recommendations established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

- Universal and correct wearing of masks - The Lynchburg City School Board, being aware of the evolving need for mitigation measures to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in a manner that allows schools to open and operate as safely as possible, adopted this emergency policy (Masks and Face Coverings, JHCCAZ/GBEY, GBEY/JHCCAZ) for all students, staff, visitors, and vendors of Lynchburg City Schools on October 6, 2020. Policy was developed in consideration of the recommendations issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Virginia Department of Health, the Virginia Department of Education, and the Central Virginia Health District, the School Board. This policy also covers children and staff in LCS child care programs. Policy requires students and employees to wear a mask or face covering as provided herein in an LCS school building, in another LCS facility, on school-provided transportation, property and/or campus LCS sponsored event(s).

SECTION 3: CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

Lynchburg City 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.

Lynchburg City Schools' priority during the 2021-22 school year is to provide excellent educational programs and services in-person five days a week while maintaining high standards for the health and safety of our students and school community. To meet the academic, social emotional, and comprehensive health needs of our students, Lynchburg City Schools will return to a pre-COVID seven hour instructional day with health and safety strategies to mitigate the potential spread of the COVID-19 virus including the wearing of masks, social distancing to the extent possible, the practicing of good hygiene, and contact tracing protocols. Secondary schools will implement a block scheduling model (A/B) allowing for additional instructional time to address learning loss. Longer instructional periods will also allow for more individualized learning opportunities and time for students to apply knowledge and skills during the class period with the guidance and support of the teacher.

Lynchburg City Schools will also offer a virtual option for learning (LCS Virtual Academy) during the 2021-22 school year for students that have previously applied and been enrolled. Students participating in the LCS Virtual Academy may return to in-person instruction at any time during the school year. LCS Virtual Academy students will participate in remote learning engaging with LCS teachers through online platforms (Canvas, Virtual Virginia, Edgenuity). Students will participate in self-paced, self-guided learning, as well as live online learning sessions. Live learning sessions will take place regularly, as they are pivotal in providing students with instruction needed to ensure their success. Opportunities for in-person assessment and lab experiences will also be provided.

For additional information related to Lynchburg City Schools instructional models for the 2021-22 school year, please visit the division website: <https://www.lcsedu.net/back-to-school>.

SECTION 4: OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Lynchburg City Schools received input and public comment from stakeholders on continuity of services and our safe return to in-person learning throughout the 2020-21 school year. Division and school-level administrators provided regular "Return to Learn" updates at monthly school board meetings and board work sessions, regarding the division's current and future instructional models and academic achievement data, as well as health and safety mitigation strategies and data. Stakeholders provided input and feedback via public comments, emails, and phone calls. In addition, LCS held quarterly meetings of both the Superintendent's Personnel and Parent Advisory Committees. Input was also sought from stakeholders during quarterly meetings of the Health Advisory Committee and the Equity Task Force. Input and feedback provided throughout the year was taken into account during updates and revisions to the division's Instructional and Health and Safety Mitigation Plans.

In addition, LCS will provide information on the division's website regarding the safe return to in-person learning, seeking consultation and input from all internal and external stakeholders in the development of the ARP ESSER Plan via a dedicated email address.

SECTION 5: PERIODIC REVIEW AND REVISION OF PLAN

During the period of the ARP ESSER award (until September 2023), Lynchburg City 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 Lynchburg City 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

Lynchburg City Schools has taken the following steps to make this plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at <https://www.lcsedu.net/back-to-school>
- The plan is available in multiple languages. For a translated version, please contact Dr. Allison Jordan, Director of C&I, jordanaj@lcsedu.net
- The plan may be orally translated for parents. Contact Dr. Allison Jordan, Director of C&I, jordanaj@lcsedu.net to request translation; and
- 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 Janenne Daniels-Bosher, Director of Special Education, danielsbosherjs@lcsedu.net

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