

Lynchburg City Schools

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

UPDATED May 29, 2023

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

During the 2022-23 school year, Lynchburg City Schools continues to ensure the health and safety of students, educators, staff, and community members as full in-person instruction continues five days a week. 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 any requirements from the governor of Virginia. 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, *encouraged not mandatory*
- 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 is 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 - On October 6, 2020, 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 an emergency policy (Masks and Face Coverings, JHCCAZ/GBEY, GBEY/JHCCAZ) for all students, staff, visitors, and vendors of Lynchburg City Schools. This policy was reviewed and updated by the LCS School Board on August 3, 2021. In consideration of Governor's Executive Orders and directives and 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 allows the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee to monitor and develop protocols and guidance in regards to masks and face coverings for all students, staff, visitors, and vendors of Lynchburg City Schools (LCS).

SECTION 3: CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

Lynchburg City Schools continues 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.

Federal pandemic relief funds, including ARP funds, were used for comprehensive summer programs during June and July 2022, including PowerScholars program (in partnership with the YMCA of Central Virginia) for elementary and middle school students, PETAL program for elementary and high school students, and high school credit recovery courses. Over 1200 students participated in learning opportunities to increase academic success and address learning recovery. Enrichment and accelerated learning opportunities were also offered.

During the 2022-23 school year, Lynchburg City Schools continues to offer in-person educational programs and services for all students 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 operates on a pre-COVID, seven hour school day with health and safety strategies to mitigate the potential spread of the COVID-19 virus. Secondary schools run a 90-minute block scheduling model (A/B) allowing for additional instructional time to address learning loss. Longer instructional periods 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.

Federal pandemic relief funds are being used to support virtual learning during the 2022-23 school year. Lynchburg City Schools offers a virtual option for learning (LCS Virtual Academy or LVA) for students that have completed the application and enrollment process. Students participating in the LCS Virtual Academy may return to in-person instruction at any time during the school year. LVA students participate in remote learning engaging with LCS teachers through online platforms (Canvas, Virtual Virginia, Edgenuity). Students participate in self-paced, self-guided learning, as well as regularly scheduled live online learning sessions. Opportunities for in-person assessment and lab experiences are also provided.

For the 2022-23 school year, Lynchburg City Schools is also using ARP funds to support extended learning programs. Individual schools may apply internally for funding to offer before, during, and afterschool programs to provide additional time for tutoring, remediation, and learning recovery. These programs run year-long and stakeholders will review data on the students served and the impact of these programs to guide next steps.

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 continues to receive input and public comment from stakeholders on continuity of services and our safe return to in-person learning. Division and school-level administrators provide regular updates at monthly school board meetings and board work sessions, regarding the division's current and future instructional models and academic achievement, health and safety mitigation strategies and data, and updates regarding transportation and school nutrition services for LCS students. Stakeholders provide input and feedback via public comments, emails, and phone calls. In addition, LCS holds quarterly meetings of both the Superintendent's Personnel and Parent Advisory Committees. Input is also sought from stakeholders during quarterly meetings of the Health Advisory Committee and the Equity Task Force. Input and

feedback provided throughout the year are taken into account during updates and revisions to the division's Instructional and Health and Safety Mitigation Plans.

In addition, LCS provides 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 an online [survey](#).

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, VDH, and VDOE guidance on safely reopening schools, if any are issued. Click [here](#) to provide input for plan revisions.

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/covid-19-updates>
- The plan is available in multiple languages. For a translated version, please contact your child's school office and they will contact the Central Office to request a translated version.
- The plan may be orally translated for parents. Please contact your child's school office and they will contact the Central Office to arrange for oral translation.
- 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, danielsbosheris@lcsedu.net

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