

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](mailto: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. A description of actions already taken and additional actions planned is below.

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

- Instructional models, including social-emotional wellbeing and mental health
- Instructional transportation model & scheduling
- Health & Safety Mitigation plans
- Staff, Student & Family Supports (Nutrition, Technology, Childcare, Classroom arrangement, Training & resources for staff and families)
- Athletics & Extracurricular plans
- Visitor/Volunteer & Community Use of Facilities plan

The plan was developed by LCS staff serving on the LCS Dream Team - Return to Learn committees and subcommittees. LCS staff assisted in developing and analyzing surveys, researching best practices, and facilitating focus groups. Data was collected from 3 surveys and 4 focus group meetings with the business/community, the medical profession, parents/guardians, and students. The plan was reviewed and updated regularly to reflect current guidance from the CDC, the local health department, and the Virginia Department of Education, as well as to conform to requirements in the governor's Executive Orders. The plan is posted on the division's [website](#) and is available to the public. LCS's Instructional Plan will be reviewed at least quarterly to ensure alignment with VDOE, CDC, and other agency guidance.

### **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/return-to-learn>
- The plan is available in multiple languages. For a translated version, please contact Dr. Allison Jordan, Director of C&I, [jordanaj@lcsedu.net](mailto:jordanaj@lcsedu.net)
- The plan may be orally translated for parents. Contact Dr. Allison Jordan, Director of C&I, [jordanaj@lcsedu.net](mailto: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](mailto:danielsbosherjs@lcsedu.net)

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