



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 Page County Public Schools (PCPS) 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. For the 2022-2023 school year, Page County Public Schools will be operating under in-person learning, five days a week for all students. Questions about this plan should be directed to Mrs. Gabby Ryman, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Innovation and Accountability at (540) 743-6533.

Section 2: Maintaining Health and Safety

Page County Public 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.

- Personal Protective Equipment
 - Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) is available to all faculty and staff to include face masks, gloves, face shields, gowns, and goggles.
- Signage
 - Appropriate signage is used in offices, restrooms, in the cafeteria and throughout each school.
- Face Covering/Masks
 - Face coverings are optional for all students, staff, and guests unless required through return from quarantine guidelines as described by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).
- Physical Distancing
 - Physical distancing of 6 feet is encouraged, with 3 feet being used whenever possible. Physical distancing is not required but is highly encouraged at all schools and facilities.
 - Seating in classrooms will be designed to maintain as much physical distance as possible.
 - Activities that require increased exhalation such as singing, shouting, playing of instrument or sports/exercise should maximize physical distancing as much as possible and may be moved outside if feasible.
 - During class changes, students should put as much physical distance between themselves as possible.
 - Playground equipment can be used by classes.
 - Students will be physically distanced on school buses to the greatest extent possible.
- Hand Washing and Use of Hand Sanitizer
 - All students and staff should wash hands or use hand sanitizer as often as possible, and especially when entering the building or office.
 - Hand sanitizer is available in all schools and will be at least 60% alcohol based.

- Students and staff are encouraged to cover their cough or sneeze, thus practicing good respiratory etiquette.
- Tissues and trash receptacles are available in offices and classrooms and other high use areas.
- Cleaning, Disinfecting and Sanitizing
 - Buildings and offices are cleaned once a day and more often if needed.
 - All teachers are provided access to sanitizing wipes to use as needed. Wipes are available in all office spaces and across buildings for use.
 - High touch areas in the buildings and office will be sanitized throughout the day (e.g. handrails, bathrooms, water bottle filling stations)
 - Water fountains and bottle filling stations are available for student use and cleaned throughout the day.
 - When disinfecting any area occupied by a student with a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 or any other communicable disease (i.e. strep, stomach bug) or when dealing with the cleanup of any bodily secretions (i.e. vomit), custodians will employ universal precautions. Gloves, goggles and masks will be provided.
 - If items are shared, students should use hand sanitizer before and after using the shared objects.
- Ventilation
 - HVAC systems have been cleaned and filters inspected and/or changed to ensure that the amount of fresh air circulating the building is at the maximum amount based on the system's design.
 - HVAC systems are routinely monitored by staff.
 - When appropriate, windows can be open to provide additional circulation of air.
 - Portable air purifiers have been purchased for staff and placed in classrooms and offices across the division based on staff request. If a staff member requests an air purifier for their classroom or office space, they are to notify their principal or immediate supervisor.
- School Clinic Protocols and Procedures
 - School nurses are essential to the safe and effective running of a school and provide the first level of support to students and staff when they are ill.
 - Schools will continue to maintain identified isolations areas.
 - Clinics are available for students and staff when needed, but alternate areas or practices may be used as needed.
- Contact Tracing
 - PCPS will conduct contact tracing based on recommended practices as outlined by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH).
 - Students and staff may be asked to quarantine or isolate in certain situations.
 - PCPS works in conjunction with the Lord Fairfax Health District to follow all prescribed and recommended contact tracing, quarantining and isolation practices.
 - More information on contact tracing, quarantine, and division practices can be found on the PCPS COVID-19 page.
- Testing
 - PCPS will engage with the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to provide COVID-19 testing to students and staff when available and appropriate.
 - Testing could be diagnostic in nature.

- Vaccination
 - As the leading public health prevention strategy and per the CDC, VDH and LFHD recommendations, all eligible people, including students, are encouraged to get vaccinated.
 - PCPS does not require vaccinations for students, staff, parents or visitors.
- Coordination with state and local health officials and the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE).
 - PCPS collaborates with the Loud Fairfax Health District (LFHD), the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), and the VDOE for our COVID-19 guidance. The LFHD and the VDH coordinate with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).
- Other strategies:
 - Visitors and volunteers are permitted to attend school activities following approved PCPS practices. Anyone who is symptomatic is asked to stay home.
 - Field trips will be assessed on a case by case basis and mitigation strategies should be employed during these trips.

Section 3: Continuity of Services

Page County Public 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. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and practices will be determined on an individual basis through the child’s Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) or Section 504 plan.

School Calendar and Start and End Times

The division calendar reflects the requirement that all schools offer in-person instruction five-days a week to all students. The division’s academic calendar can be found [HERE](#). Hours of operation for in-person instruction will be similar to past years (pre-COVID), with schools beginning at or about 8:15am and ending at or about 3:15pm.

Instruction

PCPS will provide in-person learning for all enrolled students in grade Pre-K-12 five days a week. New instruction will be provided to all students during the 2022-2023 school year, regardless of the operational status of the classroom, the school, or the division. Various assessments will be used to determine student’s individual learning needs. Feedback will be giving to students on assignments and students are expected to complete and engage in all learning activities provided by the teacher. Involvement in the arts, Career and Technical Education opportunities, physical education, and other elective courses are important for students. Encore opportunities will be available to students in grade K-5 and elective course will be available to students in grades 6-12. Schoology will continue to be used by teachers as the division’s Learning Management System (LMS).

Professional Development

Professional learning is vital to teachers and other staff to ensure that best practices and research-based strategies are being used in classrooms. The PCPS School Board approved five professional development days for teachers throughout the 2022-2023 school year. These days, in addition to other professional learning opportunities afford teachers and staff the time needed to ensure that students receive the level of instruction that is expected by PCPS. Professional development allows teachers to do things such as enhance their skills in areas such as technology, develop curriculum, plan collaboratively, understanding trauma, student engagement, or building assessments.

Social and Emotional Well-Being for Students and Staff

It is a priority for PCPS to support the social and emotional well-being of both students and staff. PCPS follows protocols for screening mental health concerns and refers students who need targeted support services. Staff will receive professional learning on understanding trauma and how to teacher and interact with those who have suffered trauma in a sensitive and appropriate manner. Additionally, staff are trained to look for signs of neglect or abuse, and follow strict reporting guidelines. PCPS works to ensure that all school staff are aware of recourses available for self-care and mental health support, such as the free and confidential Employee Assistance Plan (EAP) service. Counselors and school psychologists remain ready to assist students, their families and staff as needed, and our student support staff engage with families to provide access to a variety of school and community-based services. Using ARP ESSER III funds, the division partnered with Northwestern to provide a part-time School Based Therapist who assists students and families in need by connecting them to necessary resources and supports.

Technology

All enrolled PCPS students in grades 3-12 will be issued a division Chromebook. Students in PreK-2 will be issued an iPad. Secondary students will be able to take their devices home each day. Elementary students will leave their devices at school, however, in the case of extended absences or school/classroom closures students will be permitted to take their devices home. As signed Acceptable Computer System Use Policy if required for each student. Students will also be required to follow the requirements for use as laid out in the PCPS Student Handbook and Code of Conduct. A list of available Wi-Fi hotspots accessible to all students and staff can be found [HERE](#). Wi-Fi services in these locations are offered free of charge and are courtesy of the Page County Public School division or Page County.

Communication

The school division will communicate with families and students through an updated COVID-19 website, to include a frequently asked questions section, forms, notifications, a COVID-19 dashboard, links and resources. Additionally, the division will utilize features of its webpage/communications platform to send live feed and text messages, phone calls, emails, and post information on division and school based social media pages. School Board meetings are live streamed for the public to view. Surveys will be utilized when needed and all parents, students, and staff will be afforded the opportunity to respond, as applicable. All communications will be translated for students or parents as needed. Additionally, schools and central office staff make every effort to connect one-on-one with families whenever they can or when there are increased needs. Teachers communicate with parents and students through email, Schoology, or Class Dojo.

Nutritional Services

PCPS Nutritional services staff will provide breakfast and lunch to all students at no cost to all enrolled students during the 2022-2023 school year. Meals will primary be served in the school cafeterias, however, it may be necessary for students to eat I other designated areas in the school or outside, weather permitting. Meal packages will be available to students in the event of a school closure.

Transportation

PCPS offers free transportation services to all enrolled students. Parents/Guardians may transport their child to and from school if needed.

Section 4: Opportunity for Public Comment

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

The PCPS Plan for the Safe Return to In-Person Learning, the PCPS Health Plan, and the ARP ESSER III spending plan are all available for public review on the division webpage. Information is shared with all staff and families with the option to provide input through a Google Form. As input was provided, division staff have reviewing and taken this information into account when developing all plans. As we move through the school year, additional input will be garnered through various opportunities such as the Superintendent's Teacher, Staff, Student, and Parent Advisory councils.

Additionally, the public was encouraged to provide input at the Citizen Comment of each School Board meeting, or through online comment portal available for Board Meetings. The School Board meeting dates and times can be found on the division's webpage.

Section 5: Periodic Review and Revision of Plan

During the period of the ARP ESSER award (until September 2023), Page County Public 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 Page County Public Schools seek and take into account public input during the review process. Plan revisions will address updated CDC and/or VDH guidance on safely reopening schools, if any are issued.

Section 6: Making the Plan Available to the Public

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

- The plan is posted on the PCPS COVID-19 webpage: <https://www.pagecounty.k12.va.us/page/pcps-covid-19-info>
- The plan is will be translated in writing or orally as needed through the use of a translation service. Please contact Ms. Casey Owens for more information (540-743-6533).
- Upon request, a parent or guardian 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. Ellen Baker at (540-743-6533).