



King and Queen County Public Schools

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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 King and Queen County Public 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. Questions about this plan should be directed to Dr. Carol Carter, Division Superintendent, at ccarter@kqps.net or 804-785-5981.

As a school division, student safety is our priority as we designed mitigation strategies to allow our students to safely return to learning. An essential goal of our mitigation plan is to cultivate new norms, habits and mindsets among the student and staff population that will maximize safe behavior but also manifest patience, kindness, compassion, community-mindedness, and a sense of personal responsibility to others both within our walls and in the "outside world."

Section 2: Maintaining Health and Safety

King and Queen 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 are below.

King and Queen County Public Schools implemented a mitigation plan for the 2020-21 and 2021-2022 school year. We reviewed and updated our health mitigation plan for the 2022-2023 school year. It is posted at www.kqps.net. The detailed mitigation plan includes our

procedures and policies on layered prevention strategies that provides our students and staff with a safe and healthy learning environment.

King and Queen County Public Schools, in partnership with the CDC, Virginia Department of Health (VDH), and King and Queen Health Department, has determined the following layered prevention strategies be implemented in order to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases:

- Staying up to date on routine vaccinations
- Improved ventilation (in buildings and on school buses)
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities
- Staying home when sick and getting tested
- Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine
- Offering Diagnostic Testing for COVID-19 and participating in Test to Stay (TTS) programs

King and Queen County Public Schools, in partnership with the King and Queen Health Department, has determined the following layered prevention strategies be implemented in order to prevent the transmission of COVID-19:

Wearing face coverings. Face coverings are optional for all staff, students, and visitors.

Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding). Each school facility has been mapped to determine how classrooms and communal spaces must be prepared to ensure physical distancing recommendations if needed.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette. Hand sanitizer stations have been installed throughout each building. It is recommended that students and staff use hand sanitizer each time they enter and exit the building and the classroom. Students and staff should wash hands regularly throughout the day. Washing for a minimum time of 20 seconds will be encouraged and expected. Hand washing guidance will be provided to all staff and students.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation. Our custodian, bus drivers, and car drivers have been equipped and trained with electrostatic sprayers for more rapid and effective disinfection of surfaces and spaces. All disinfecting products are EPA approved and align with Center of Disease Control and Prevention recommendations. Building cleaning and disinfection will take place each day; traditional methods of cleaning as well as electrostatic sprayers will be used. All high-touch areas (door handles, railings, etc.) will be cleaned and sanitized multiple times throughout the school day. Buses will be disinfected before and after each route has been completed; either to school or from school to home.

KQPS will ensure ventilation systems operate properly and will increase the circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, if appropriate. KQPS Maintenance Staff will check HVAC systems and ensure filters are routinely changed according to manufacturer standards. KQPS has installed bipolar ionization ventilation equipment at all school facilities to improve the indoor air quality by managing air flow, detecting and identifying contaminants and managing air filtration. In 2022-2023, we will be replacing older HVAC

systems at LMES and repairing the roofs at LMES and CHS to improve air quality in the buildings.

Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities. KQPS continues to partner with the King and Queen Health Department to offer vaccination clinics for all interested staff and eligible students and community members.

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies. Parents can request accommodations as needed.

Coordination with state and local health officials. KQPS has continued to work closely with the King and Queen Health department throughout the pandemic. KQPS has worked with our local health department on developing our health and safety mitigation plans, procedures for contact tracing, testing, and vaccination clinics.

Section 3: Continuity of Services

King and Queen 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.

Academic

King and Queen County Schools have focused on the continuation of learning since the statewide shutdown in March 2020. Goals during the 2021-2022 school year focused on prioritizing learning loss, achievement, technology considerations, and remediation based on multiple factors to include student needs, formative data, prior achievement and data collected during the pandemic. All three schools prioritized summer learning opportunities based on student needs. Teachers prepared activities that support student academic achievement and the high school expanded opportunities for credit recovery. This is still our main focus for the 2022-2023 school year.

KQPS start of the 2022-2023 school year is a culmination of the work of the KQPS task force teams, survey data from students, and input from the King and Queen County School Board. Our first priority was to ensure that all students had access to in-person learning, with social emotional support, in a safe and healthy environment. The current instructional model provides a "returning to normal" schedule, operating on a full day, five days a week.

Additionally, KQPS has implemented an afterschool program for our elementary students in grades 1 - 6. The afterschool program is two days a week. During the first semester the focus is on literacy and during the second semester the focus will be on math.

Students receiving special services (special education, speech, English Language Learners ...) will continue to have access to support and services as outlined in their individual instructional plans. Sensory Rooms have been reopened and sanitization is done on a regular basis.

Self-Contained: Students participating in self-contained programs will receive the most appropriate inclusion opportunities and will not be relegated to one classroom.

Special Programs to include Keys Academy, Faison, EDC, Chesapeake Bay, Maggie Walker, and Bridging Communities are now in-person learning for the 2022-2023 school year.

KQPS continues to be prepared for the ever-changing landscape of instructional delivery. We are a 1-to-1 school division with chromebooks available to all students from grades K-12. High speed internet is finally available throughout our county to help with internet connectivity challenges and increases the equity of access within our community. We are prepared to respond quickly and efficiently to any outside forces that may impact student learning.

KQPS offered parents the option to enroll their students in fully virtual learning for the 2021-2022 school year through Virtual Virginia in April 2021 with an enrollment closing date of July 15, 2021. Our constant and continuing focus on our health mitigation plan allowed for KQPS to transition more students to in person learning with greater than 99% of our students in person five days a week. Only one elementary student was fully enrolled in Virtual Virginia for the 2021-2022 school year. We have 100% of our students in-person for the 2022-2023 school year.

During the 2020-2021 school year, student's progress was assessed and monitored closely. Student's needs were measured utilizing multiple resources to include Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) growth assessment, Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS), Achieve 3000 level set and division created quarterly formative assessments. Teachers worked diligently to align content and instructional strategies to limit the learning loss caused by lost instructional time.

During the 2022-2023 school year, instructional intentionality drives our academic implementation. We will strive to find ways to achieve learning recovery through **acceleration**. We will develop teacher clarity by prioritizing standards using consistent and specific criteria, implement quick differentiation through vertical alignment of power standards, emphasize rigorous and relevant learning through scaffolded questions and tasks, create checks for understanding by aligning formative assessments to the power standards and establish high expectations to instill a belief that **ALL** students can and will learn. We have continued to utilize growth assessments to monitor student's progress throughout the year.

Social Emotional and Mental Health

This unprecedented shift to a new type of learning experience may have a lasting and profound impact on young people's academic, social, emotional, and life outcomes. The pandemic has underscored the need for social emotional learning as an essential part of a high-quality education; highlighting our relationships, resiliency, and collective problem-solving as fundamental to teaching and learning. KQPS has continued to support our student social emotional and mental health needs throughout the past and current school year. Our school counselors and school psychologists are available to all students and staff. KQPS has a school counselor/student support specialist at each of our three schools and a part-time school

psychologist. During the 2021-2022 school year we provided one part-time school psychologist and one part-time school psychologist assistant to support the students. This staffing level has continued for the 2022-2023 school year. Social emotional learning groups are at each school to provide support for students and SEL activities have been incorporated into teacher instruction on a daily basis. SEL groups and activities have been instrumental in building positive classroom behaviors and students' abilities to understand and manage their mental health along with cultivating positive relationships within the classroom and school. Teachers at each school will meet regularly to discuss students' academic performance and social-emotional needs. School counselors will be available for parent consultation, remote counseling, or face-to-face counseling as needed throughout the year. KQPS will provide training for all school staff to prepare them to promote student health and wellness; implement universal restorative practices, increase positive behavioral interventions and supports; implement self-care strategies; build strong relationships with students and families, and identify mental health concerns in their students and colleagues.

Elementary schools will continue to benefit from the delivery of a social-emotional learning (SEL) curriculum, Second Step, and grades 9-12 will utilize resources from The Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL) which focuses on how better to understand ourselves, connect with others, and work together to achieve goals and support our community.

All of these initiatives are being implemented during the 2022-2023 school year.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

SEL and Equity Consultant will aid staff to incorporate social emotional learning and equity as part of their curriculum to help build relationships, resiliency, and collective problem-solving that is fundamental to teaching and learning. In 2020-2021 in alignment with the Educational Equity or Opportunity guidance from the Governor's office, King & Queen County school district has launched an Equity Initiative to examine policies, procedures and make recommendations to improve equity, diversity and inclusion in all aspects of the district's operations. The Equity Initiative has five key objectives:

1. To create a library (or toolkit) of Equity resources for use by teachers, administrators and community stakeholders,
2. To provide professional learning opportunities for district personnel re: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion,
3. To make recommendations that will increase the hiring and retention of Teachers, Administrators & Support Staff of color,
4. To examine district policies & procedures re: disciplinary practices to ensure fairness of implementation, and
5. To amplify voices of students at all levels giving them an opportunity to share their concerns and desires for excellence and equity in their own education.

At the start of the 2022-2023 school year, the taskforce has implemented a website for staff to use as a reference. The website includes resources for staff and community members, quarterly newsletters, and our Equity Guidebook.

Student Nutrition

King and Queen County Public Schools school nutrition staff will continue to provide meals to all students. KQPS is participating in the Community Eligibility Provision program which allows students to receive free meals regardless of their economic status. This program provides support for the well-being of our students and helps relieve some of the financial stress and food insecurity for families.

All students will go to the cafeteria to receive meals. Grades Pre-K and K will have the option to either eat breakfast in the cafeteria or eat in their classrooms. Elementary students in 1st through 6th grade will grab breakfast and return to their classrooms. Middle School and High School students will go to the cafeteria to receive their breakfast and either eat breakfast in the cafeteria or their classrooms. All students will eat their lunch in the cafeteria during their scheduled lunch period.

Section 4: Opportunity for Public Comment

In developing King and Queen County Public Schools reopening and continuing learning plan, KQPS sought public input and took such input into account as described below.

The division has sought input from students, families, staff, and the community with surveys throughout the school year about adequate internet connectivity, health and mitigation, and return to learning options. The King and Queen School board has been involved in reviewing and implementing our reopening and mitigation plans. The Superintendent will continue to keep the School Board informed of all health concerns to affect our students and staff throughout the year. Public comment will continue to be available at all of our school board meetings for parents and community members to voice their comments pertaining to reopening, mitigation plans, and use of ARP funds.

King and Queen Public Schools will continue to seek input and feedback from all stakeholders during the development of continuing learning and the use of the American Rescue Plan funds.

Section 5: Periodic Review and Revision of Plan

During the period of the ARP ESSER award (until September 2023), King and Queen 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 King and Queen County Public 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

King and Queen County Public Schools has taken the following steps to make this plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at www.kqps.net
- The plan is available in Spanish and Arabic upon request
- The plan may be orally translated for parents. Contact Dr. David Curran, Director of Special Education dcurran@kqps.net or 804-785-5981 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 Dr. David Curran, Director of Special Education dcurran@kqps.net or 804-785-5981.