



Plan for Instruction and Continuity of Services

Bedford County Public Schools

2022-23

Section 1: Introduction

The purpose of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Fund was 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 is updated every six months to keep parents notified of changes to our programming. Questions about this plan should be directed to the Chief Learning Officer, Dr. Karen Woodford at kwoodford@bedford.k12.v.us.

Section 2: Maintaining Health and Safety

Bedford County Schools has taken and will continue to take actions to ensure the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and division. Bedford County Schools plans to follow recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Virginia Health Department (VDH).

- Face masks are optional for all employees and students.
- In-depth cleaning will occur throughout the day in high touch and high volume areas within the school. If a class has an identified case of COVID19, the classroom will be cleaned and sprayed with anti-viral formulas immediately.
- Co-curricular and extra-curricular activities will fully resume as normal.
- Parents are encouraged to keep their children at home when they are symptomatic or running a fever. They should not return to school until they are fever free for 24 hours without using fever reducing medications.
- Parents are encouraged to follow CDC and VDH guidelines for return to school after being diagnosed with COVID19.

Section 3: Continuity of Services

Bedford County 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.

School Year 2022-23

All instruction, activities, extra-curricular, and co-curricular events will return to pre-pandemic levels. We will increase our focus on learning loss, remediation, SEL support, and high expectations for daily instruction.

School Year 2021-22 (Old Plan)

An in-person summer sessions were offered in 2020 and 2021. The 2021 summer session had a longer school day and a longer duration, 5.5 hours a day for 6 weeks. Students were encouraged to attend daily, but that was not a requirement as we wanted to serve as many students as possible. Breakfast and lunch was served daily. Counselors were available for students during the summer to help with adjustments back to full time instruction for the middle and high school students. Elementary students were full-time during the 2020-21 school year, so their adjustment was easier.

In the 2021-2022 school year, all students will attend school daily; Bedford Connects will offer a 100% remote learning option through Virtual Virginia for students who choose and who qualify. Social-emotional lessons will continue for all students. A minimum of two Intervention Design Specialists will be placed in every secondary school building to address the impact of COVID-19 on students' emotional, social, and mental health needs. Six additional intervention design specialists will serve the thirteen elementary schools in our district.

Many of the new staff positions were created to provide oversight of the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of students. The Special Education Supervisor of Compliance will provide direct oversight of the creation and implementation of Individualized Education Plans as well as Child Find responsibilities. This supervisor will also ensure that minority populations are not over identified in special education because of missed instruction rather than an actual disability. The special education staff will analyze school and division level test data (PALS, VKRP, running records, and benchmarks, etc.) to monitor and support schools with support services for struggling students.

Intervention Design Specialists will collaborate with teachers and administrators. They will be supervised by building principals and the Director of Student Support Services. IDS staff will be provided specialized training using Ross Greene's behavior strategies. There are two levels of intervention design specialists. Level I specialists have experience working with disruptive and struggling students, but may not have a mental health degree or background. They will be supervised by Level II specialists. The Level II specialists all have degrees in counseling, mental health, or social work. Their expertise with social emotional supports will be vitally important, especially at our secondary schools, as we recover from the pandemic. All Level II intervention design specialists will be supervised by a school psychologist and work directly with a school's mental health support team.

BCPS already employs three English Learner teachers, who create and oversee implementation of Individual Learning Plans for English language learners. The Supervisor of Reading (Title I) supervises students experiencing homelessness as well as Title I teachers. This supervisor's responsibilities have been decreased to focus completely on reading, reading intervention, and reading specialists to support all students. She will analyze school and division data and provide professional development for teachers. The Supervisor of Math has also been given reduced responsibilities to provide the same level of support to all schools in math.

Nutrition services will provide onsite meal pickup for any students participating in our 100% remote learning option. These services will also be available on all virtual learning days for students.

Section 4: Opportunity for Public Comment

In developing the ARP ESSER Plan, Bedford County Schools conducted consultation by presenting a draft of the plan to, and requesting input from, a number of stakeholders including members of the Bedford County Education Association, Bedford County Parent and Teacher Association, and the Superintendent's Advisory Committee, which consists of students, teachers, administrators, and staff. Each group contributed suggestions for improving the plan such as touchless water dispensers, deep cleaning of musical instruments and purchasing additional instruments, and funding to help teachers achieve certifications in hard to fill areas. The draft plan was also presented to the Bedford County School Board during a public meeting.

Section 5: Periodic Review and Revision of Plan

During the period of the ARP ESSER award (until September 2023), Bedford County 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 Bedford County 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

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

- The plan is posted at http://bedford.sharpschool.net/parents_students/coronavirus_covid-19 ;
- The plan is available in multiple languages. Please contact your child's school if you need the plan in a different language and they will contact the Title III office;
- The plan may be orally translated for parents. Contact Jean Marie Johnston at jmjohnston@bedford.k12.va.us 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 Contact Jean Marie Johnston at jmjohnston@bedford.k12.va.us.