



Plan for Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services Bedford County Public Schools 2021-2022

Reviewed and Updated 5/12/2022

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 Bedford 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 the Chief Learning Officer, Dr. Karen Woodford at kwoodford@bedfor.k12.v.us.

Section 2: Maintaining Health and Safety

Bedford 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. A more detailed description is available within the [BCPS Health and Safety Mitigation Plan \(updated 6/1/2022\); click here to review.](#)

- Face masks are optional for both students and drivers on buses.
- Face masks are optional for all Pre-K-12 students and all BCPS employees.
- Instructional and co-curricular field trips are allowed. Applicable requirements of the Health and Mitigation Plan BCPS 2021-22 will be followed while away from school on trips
- Students who are symptomatic should remain at home and be tested by a health care provider.
- The school nurse is available to assist parents with guidance related to isolation at home and return to school requirements for students who have tested positive.
- Due to the difficulty in completing close contact investigations, close contacts will not be identified and no quarantines will be imposed by the school division.
- Athlete safety mitigation strategies will be implemented to be consistent with VHSL and district guidelines when applicable.
- Furniture will be arranged in learning areas to achieve appropriate physical distancing of 3-6 feet during routine activities as practicable in each school.
- As much as possible, classrooms will open their windows and doors.
- 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 COVID-19, the classroom will be cleaned and



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sprayed with anti-viral formulas immediately.

- Small group activities should still maintain physical distancing of 3 feet.
- Large events occurring during the school day will not be scheduled, such as pep rallies or assemblies. After school large events, in which there is parent choice for attendance, such as dances, PTA events, social events, and proms will be permitted.
- Clubs and student organizations are allowed to meet during the school day when implementing health and safety protocols.
- Outside learning areas will be used when possible.
- Staff will manage schedules for loading buses, getting meals from the cafeteria, using restrooms, and other functions to the extent possible to avoid large groupings of students.
- Traditional safety drills that require close contact will be modified for appropriate physical distancing.
- The number of reported COVID-19 cases will be posted on the BCPS website daily by school.
- Appropriate signage will be posted throughout school buildings to direct and remind staff and students about safe routines, procedures, and practices.
- Children with disabilities will have appropriate accommodations concerning health and safety policies. These accommodations will be decided upon by the student's IEP team and recorded in the student's IEP.
- Bedford County Public Schools will consult with the local Health Department for large scale quarantines and outbreaks.
- All schools in Bedford County have been serviced with duct cleaning to improve ventilation.

Bedford County Public Schools has adopted the following policies regarding the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) safety recommendations.

- Classrooms and large group meeting areas (cafeteria and gym) will be arranged to allow 3-6 ft. of distance to the extent possible.
- Elementary students will stay in their homeroom pods to the extent possible
- If an outbreak occurs in a school, stricter cohorting will occur with teachers moving and not students, learning coach groups with synchronous virtual instruction, and suspension of high-risk activities (singing, playing instruments, and PE).
- Physical education classes will use pods for instruction to limit the amount of interaction during class. When exercising students will be spaced 10 feet apart.
- All students will wash their hands when they leave the class. When they enter a new area, they will use hand sanitizer. Instruction will be given to students on correct handwashing.



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Section 3: Continuity of Services

Bedford 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 as well as students' and staff's social, emotional, and mental health, and other needs.

In-person summer sessions were offered in 2020 and 2021. The 2021 summer session had a longer school day and a longer duration than previous summer sessions, 5.5 hours a day for 6 weeks. Students were encouraged to attend daily, but that was not a requirement in an effort to serve as many students as possible. Breakfast and lunch were 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 attended school full-time during the 2020-21 school year, so their adjustment was easier.

In the 2021-2022 school year, all students attend school daily; Bedford Connects offers a 100% remote learning option through Virtual Virginia for students who both choose and qualify. Social-emotional lessons continue for all students. A minimum of two Intervention Design Specialists (IDS) are 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 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 provides direct oversight of the creation and implementation of Individualized Education Plans as well as Child Find responsibilities. This supervisor also ensures that minority populations are not over-identified in special education because of missed instruction rather than an actual disability. The special education staff analyzes 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 (IDS) collaborate with teachers and administrators. These specialists are supervised by building principals and the Director of Student Support Services. IDS staff provide 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 are 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 is vitally important, especially at our secondary schools, as we recover from the pandemic. All Level II intervention design specialists are 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



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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 Public Schools conducted consultation by presenting a draft of the plan to, and requesting input from, 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, purchasing additional musical 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 Public Schools will periodically review and, as needed, revise the county's safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services. The plan will be reviewed at least every six months, and Bedford County Public Schools will seek and consider public input during the review process. Plan revisions will address updated CDC guidance on safely reopening schools, if any are issued.

[Click here to give input for plan revisions.](#)

Section 6: Making the Plan Available to the Public

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

- [This plan is posted on the BCPS website \(click here\).](#)
- 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 JeanMarie Johnston at jmjohnston@bedford.k12.va.us to request 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, accessible format by contacting JeanMarie Johnston jmjohnston@bedford.k12.va.us.