



NCN COVID-19 Response & ESSER III Plan

June 24, 2022



NCN COVID-19 & ESSER III Agenda

- Looking Back
 - 20-21 Guiding Principles
 - 20-21 Distance Learning Guide
 - 21-22 Safety Guidelines
- The NCN Advantage
 - Physical Health & Presence
 - Social & Emotional Wellness
 - Engaging Learning Experiences
 - Strong Family Engagement
- Path Forward





Looking Back: Summer 2020

After the spring of March 2020, when Indiana suspended in-personal learning for schools as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Neighborhood Charter Network (NCN) took the summer to solicit feedback and input from staff¹, families², and state/local health officials³ to determine the guidance for the 2020-2021 school year.

Based on this input and their core beliefs, NCN created their 20-21 Guiding Principles and the Distance Learning Guide.

1. Network & Leadership Team conducted a series of listening tours, conference calls, and feedback meetings.

2. NCN solicited family feedback via the May 2020 Family Survey and via public comment during the NCN's open board meetings.

3. ISDH, IDOE, and MCPHD scheduled/provide a series of ia webinars, conference calls, and guidance documents. Distance Learning Guide submitted to MCPHD.



Looking Back: 20-21 Guiding Principles

Design Principles	Description
Safety First	We care deeply for the students and families we serve and for the staff members we employ. Safety is always always a primary driver in decision making. This year, however, ensuring the health and safety of all our stakeholders is paramount.
Maximize Access	We seek to provide equity through high-quality education experiences. Students' ability to access those experiences are critical to our goal. That means we go the extra mile and don't compromise quality so all students can access instruction.
Keep it Simple	We leverage and enhance our existing practices and prioritize making a limited number of shifts in our program design and implementation, focusing on the most important actions aligned to student learning.
Balance Academics & Social-Emotional Needs	We know students' social and emotional needs have to be tended to when school is happening as "normal." In our new normal, we know we have to be increasingly cognizant of these needs, and we seek to provide as much care for social-emotional development as we do for their academic growth.
Sustainability for All	We make models and plans knowing that students, families, and staff members are all experiencing a once-in-a-century convergence of health, financial, and social uncertainty. Our plan has to be responsive to these challenges.



Looking Back: Distance Learning Guide

Based on these guiding principles, NCN developed their 2020-21 Distance Learning¹ Guide.

Families were offered the option for in-person or synchronous, remote instruction with the option to switch quarterly.



1. Link to [20-21 NCN Distance Learning Guide](#)



Looking Back: 21-22 Safety Guidance

Given the availability of the COVID-19 vaccine and the data supporting the positive impact of in-person instruction¹, NCN's approach to the **2021-22 school year was to keep students and staff safe, while prioritizing quality, in-person instruction.**

In accordance with the Indiana State Department of Health Guidance², CDC³, MCPHD⁴, and IPS Guidance⁵, NCN developed its [2021-22 COVID-19 Safety Guidance](#) & COVID-19 Protocols ([English](#) & [Spanish](#)), which are updated on an ongoing basis.

1. Link to [Mode of Instruction During the Pandemic: An Analysis](#)
3. [CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#)
5. [IPS COVID-19 Response Plan](#)

2. [Indiana State Department of Health COVID-19 Guidance](#)
4. [MCPHD Guidance](#)

The screenshot shows the title page and first section of the '2021-2022 COVID-19 PROTOCOLS' document. It features the NCN logo at the top, followed by the title and a date for the first student day. Below this, it lists '2021-22 Safety Measures' and provides a disclaimer that guidelines are subject to change based on health department recommendations. The first section, 'MASKS/FACE COVERINGS', includes icons and text for students, bus riders, staff, and visitors. Other sections include 'HANDWASHING', 'SYMPTOM SCREENING', 'PHYSICAL DISTANCING', 'NURSES CLINIC LOCATIONS', 'WATER BOTTLES', and 'VACCINATION'. The final section, 'CLEANING AND DISINFECTING', is partially visible at the bottom.

Neighborhood Charter Network
2021-2022 COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

FIRST STUDENT DAY: MONDAY, AUGUST 2
In-person classes will return to their regular Monday - Friday schedule.

2021-22 Safety Measures

The following protocols are the practices we will continue to use for the 2021-22 school year. These guidelines are **subject to change** based on recommendations from the Marion County Public Health Department.

MASKS/FACE COVERINGS

- Students:** Masks are **required** indoors for all students.
- Bus Riders:** Per federal mandate, masks are **required** for all bus riders.
- Staff:** Masks are **required** indoors for all staff members.
- Visitors:** All visitors must wear a mask and maintain physical distance.

HANDWASHING
Regular handwashing will be encouraged for students and staff. Hand sanitizer will be available in classrooms and common areas when handwashing isn't an option.

SYMPTOM SCREENING
Families are expected to screen their children and keep them home if ill. Students and staff should stay at home if they have a fever of 100.4° F, or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING
Physical distancing of 3 feet or more will be maintained whenever possible.

NURSES CLINIC LOCATIONS
There will be a designated area for students displaying symptoms and waiting to be picked up. A separate area will be designated for medication distribution.

WATER BOTTLES
Bottle filling stations will remain in place. Fountains will be available for refilling water bottles.

VACCINATION
Being vaccinated is one way to protect oneself and others from COVID-19.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

- Desks and hard surfaces will continue to be disinfected every evening.
- Teachers and staff will continue to use hand sanitizer and cleaning products as needed throughout the school day.
- Hand sanitizer stations will remain available in common areas and classrooms for students and staff to use throughout the day.



Current Focus: The NCN Advantage

NCN teachers, staff and leaders are committed to ensuring that **students continue to make one or more years of academic growth** by focusing on four key drivers:

- Physical Health & Presence
- Social & Emotional Wellness
- Engaging Learning Experiences
- Strong Family Engagement



Why do we exist?

We believe that all children can and will learn.



How do we behave?

We **Lead With Love** by pairing high expectations with strong support, cultivating genuine relationships, and bringing a mop the floors mentality.



What do we do?

We expand educational equity to the communities we serve by: maximizing time, using data to drive decisions, and focusing on quality.



How will we succeed?

We ensure students and staff are both physically and emotionally present, provide engaging learning experiences, and engage families in the learning process.



Physical Health & Presence

It is more important than ever that all staff & students can safely return to their classrooms.

NCN solicited feedback and input from staff¹, families², and health experts³ in determining its approach for a safe return and identifying / removing barriers that would keep students and families from attending school.

Based on this input, NCN has spent federal grants and will spend ESSER III funds in the following ways:

- Adding additional **busing** transportation
- Increasing **custodial** and **cleaning** contracts
- Purchasing new **furniture** for social distancing
- Hiring additional **building substitutes** for continuity where there are staff absences

1. Annual school launch survey, COVID-19 feedback surveys, and Panorama survey

2. Annual transportation survey and Panorama survey

3. Plans created in accordance with MCPHD, CDC, and IDOH guidelines





Social and Emotional Wellness

In addition to physical health, social and emotional wellness is critical to the success of students and staff members.

NCN conducted a series of listening tours¹, surveys², and focus groups³ to collect feedback and input from staff, students and families to determine the factors that contributes to a safe, equitable, and inclusive environment at their school and what they need to promote social and emotional wellness.

Based on this input, NCN has spent federal grants and will spend ESSER III funds in the following ways:

- Hiring **Social Emotional Learning Specialists** at each school
- Partnering with Beloved Communities & Virtuoso for **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training** and **strategic planning**
- Improving **schoolwide visual culture**, so the schools can be an even more welcoming environment for students and staff
- Piloting a **student music program** at Enlace Academy

1. Summer 2020 DEI listening tour, spring 2021 staff listening tour, and board town hall meeting

2. Staff, student and family Panorama surveys

3. DEI school-based committees and staff focus groups





Engaging Learning Experiences

The COVID-19 pandemic negatively impacted student learning around the globe, so a crucial part of NCN's strategy is investing in engaging learning experiences for all students.

Based on a staff and family surveys¹ and in partnership with NCN's board² and education partners³, NCN has developed a robust plan for creating engaging learning experiences.

Based on this input, NCN has spent federal grants and will spend ESSER III funds in the following ways:

- Investing in new **staff professional development** and **curriculum**
- Partnering with **Marian University** for OG training and coaching for staff and direct student support
- Offering a small group **Summer Academy** program
- Providing **extended day** tutoring for students
- Investing in **1:1 technology**
- Expanding NCN's **home literacy** program
- Piloting a **library** program at Enlace Academy
- Hiring an **Assistant Director of Academics**



1. Summer Academy Survey, School Launch Survey, SSI and PD Staff Surveys, and Family Technology Survey

2. Academic Excellence Committee and NCN Board Review

3. Partnership with Attuned Partners and Marian University



Strong Family Engagement

NCN knows that strong family engagement is crucial for the success of its schools and students and is investing in resources for supporting family communication and partnerships.

NCN collected parent and student input via survey¹ to determine the initial approach to improving family engagement and will continue to solicit family input as this initiative grows and develops.

Based on this input, NCN has spent federal grants and will spend ESSER III funds in the following ways:

- Hiring **City Connects Coordinators and an additional counselor**
- Adding a **Bilingual Receptionist & Bilingual Assistants**
- Expanding **English Language staffing** at both schools
- Growing **NCN's Latino Literacy** program



1. Panorama survey and annual customer service survey



Path Forward

ESSER III funding is available through September 30, 2024.

The Neighborhood Charter Network will continue to leverage the strategies outlined in this presentation to drive academic and social emotional recovery.

Thank you for your partnership, and please reach out with questions or feedback!

