



## **2022-23 Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction (ARP ESSER III Funds)**

November 18, 2022

Albemarle County Public Schools  
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### **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. The following "Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction" describes how Albemarle County Public Schools (ACPS) 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 Rosalyn Schmitt, Chief Operating Officer, at [rschmitt@k12albemarle.org](mailto:rschmitt@k12albemarle.org).

Since schools closed in March 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, our goal has been to get back to five days of full-time, in-person instruction. We took steps toward that goal as we progressed through the various stages of our reopening plan during the 2020-21 school year. ACPS opened the 2021-22 school year with five days per week of in-person learning at all of our schools and offered a full-day virtual learning experience for students in grades K-12 who choose to enroll in our [Virtual School](#). The 2022-23 school year opened with five days of full-time, in-person instruction.

### **Section 2: Maintaining Health and Safety**

ACPS 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. ACPS will continue to follow mitigation guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), and the Blue Ridge Health District (BRHD). Our [Mitigation Strategies](#) web page includes specific safety practices, policies and videos that address areas referenced below and others:

- **Masks:** ACPS will provide masks (KN95, cloth or disposable) to students and employees upon request. Masks are not required, but they are encouraged when someone is immunocompromised or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or has a known exposure to COVID-19, or when recommended by the CDC's [COVID-19 Community Level for Albemarle County](#).
- **Hand Hygiene:** Everyone is encouraged to wash or sanitize their hands frequently during the day. Hand sanitizing dispensers and/or sinks are available in multiple areas of each building and on each school bus.
- **Cleaning:** Throughout the day, custodial staff disinfect high-touch surfaces. At night, custodians clean and disinfect classrooms and other spaces that were used during the day. Disinfecting wipes are available in all occupied classrooms for use by students and employees, as needed.
- **Ventilation:** Air purifiers with high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters are used in all classrooms, clinics, and school buses.
- **Daily Health Screening:** All students and employees should use our [Daily Health Screening](#) tool to decide if they should attend school or report to work. Anyone who is sick should stay home.
- **Response to a Confirmed Case:** Guidance on reporting a confirmed case, outbreaks, and quarantine and isolation are detailed on our [Mitigation Strategies](#) web page.
- **Coordination with state and local health officials:** ACPS regularly partners with our local health department and medical professionals, including participating in weekly meetings and ongoing discussion about current guidance on mitigation strategies.

### **Section 3: Continuity of Services**

ACPS has taken and will continue to take actions to ensure continuity of services, including, but not limited to, services to address the academic needs of students and the social, emotional, and mental health needs and other needs of students and staff. Through implementation of the mitigation strategies listed above and detailed on our [Mitigation Strategies](#) web page, ACPS can offer in-person learning to students. In-person learning offers the best strategy for continuity of services. Also, ACPS will use funding from this grant to provide smaller class sizes that support the academic and social needs of students. An additional mental health/guidance counselor is being provided at each school to support students' social, emotional and mental health.

### **Section 4: Opportunity for Public Comment**

In developing the ARP ESSER Plan, ACPS sought public input and took such input into account as follows:

Beginning in the fall of 2020 and continuing throughout the 2020-21 school year, ACPS hosted multiple virtual meetings and programs designed to obtain input from parents, students and teachers to inform our stages of returning to in-person instruction and to guide our health and safety practices. Parents received and completed surveys, selected instruction preferences, and provided public comment during school board meetings to guide ACPS implementation of the best instructional practices in light of CDC-guided COVID-19 health and safety methodology and student needs. A survey specifically aimed at obtaining ARP Plan recommendations from our community was administered in July 2021. Survey results were used in formulating our [2021-22 ARP ESSER Funding Plan](#), with emphasis on learning recovery and meeting the academic, health and safety needs of our school communities.

## **Section 5: Periodic Review and Revision of Plan**

During the period of the ARP ESSER award (until September 2023), ACPS will periodically review and, as needed, revise its plan for safe in-person instruction and continuity of services. The plan will be reviewed at least every six months, and ACPS 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**

ACPS has taken the following steps to make this plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted on the ACPS website at <https://www.k12albemarle.org/our-departments/fiscal-services/2021-22-arp-esser-funding-plan>.
- Through use of the drop-down menu of our web translation tool, the plan may be viewed on our website in any of eight languages, including English, Spanish, Arabic, Korean, Nepali, Pashto, Swahili, and Chinese.
- The plan may be orally interpreted for parents. Contact the International & ESOL Welcome Center at (434) 296-6517 or [ESOLinterpretation@k12albemarle.org](mailto:ESOLinterpretation@k12albemarle.org) to request interpretation.
- Upon request, a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) may be provided with the plan in an alternative format accessible by contacting the Department of Special Education & Student Services at (434) 296-5885 or by emailing [SPEDhelp@k12albemarle.org](mailto:SPEDhelp@k12albemarle.org).