

Alexandria City Public Schools
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**. ACPS has been awarded \$34.8 million in ESSER III funds. This plan describes how the awarded funds will be used. Questions about this plan should be directed to Robert Easley, Director of Budget & Fiscal Compliance at robert.easley@acps.k12.va.us or 703.619.8149 ext.: 1149.

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.

ACPS COVID-19 Prevention Measures are detailed here: [Link to ACPS Covid Guidelines](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Virginia Department of Health (VDH) provide guidance, resources and recommendations for the operation of K-12 schools: [Link to the Virginia Dept. of Health](#)

Recommendations include:

- Wearing masks for students, staff, and school visitors is optional. Continue with physical distancing when possible
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities and providing adequate ventilation
- Diagnostic screening and testing: ACPS is participating in with Alexandria Health Department to get students vaccinated: [Vaccination Information](#).
- ACPS participates in Virginia School Screening Testing for Assurance found at this link: [ViSSTA](#)
- ACPS Schools strongly encourages vaccination and booster shots – [following CDC guidelines](#).
- Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies as noted on page five of the [ACPS ARP Plan](#).
- Coordination with state and local health officials: [Alexandria Health Dept.](#)

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 students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs.

- Multi Tiered System of Support - [MTSS](#)
- Academic Learning Plan - [Link](#)

Section 4: Opportunity for Public Comment

In developing the ARP ESSER Plan, ACPS has sought public input and took such input into account as described below.

ACPS completed a survey of all families, staff and the community in June 2021.

Public hearings have been held on:

Thursday, June 17, 2021

Thursday, December 16, 2021

Thursday, May 5, 2022

Thursday, June 16, 2022

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Section 5: Periodic Review and Revision of Plan

During the period of the ARP ESSER award (until September 2024), ACPS 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 ACPS will seek and take into account public input during the review process. Plan revisions will address updated CDC, VDH, and Virginia Department of Education guidance, if/as issued.

ARP Community Feedback Form can be found at the following [link](#).

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 here: [ACPS American Rescue Plan](#)
- The plan will be available in the four primary languages spoken by families in the division (Arabic, Amharic, Spanish and English) All four versions can be found at this [link](#).
- The plan may be orally translated for parents.

Contact:

Mr. Victor Espinosa Sanchez
Language Access Manager
703-619-8347
victor.espinosa.sanchez@acps.k12.va.us

• 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:

Ms. Theresa Werner
Executive Director Specialized Instruction
703-619-8162
theresa.werner@acps.k12.va.us

Last Updated – 12/20/2022