

WOLFE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

APR ESSR LEA PLAN

HOW WILL FUNDS BE USED TO IMPLEMENT PREVENTION AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Our plan uses a multiple prong approach to mitigation and prevention of spread. It involves purifying the air, efficient contact tracing, and impeccable sanitation. The plan involves constant sanitation of high touch areas while students are in building. When students leave the building extra sanitizing measures will be implemented in the evening. We will provide PPE to all staff and students. Other components of the plan will be discussed below.

We installed Activepure air purifiers in each classroom, office, gym and lunchroom. Activepure is patented and developed by NASA. The purifiers have a HEPA filter, an integrated (inside unit) UV light and a carbon filter. The air will turn through these 8-10 times an hour in a classroom. The patented activepure technology also seeks and destroys viruses by hydrolyzing the molecules and shooting them out at superfast speeds that collide with viruses and breaks their shell rendering them useless in minutes. We also will set our outdoor air higher in our existing HVAC systems to help as well. We have bought sanitizing spray guns that we use on surfaces and frequently touched areas throughout the day and after school. We have hired our bus drivers to come in during school hours and act as sanitizers during the school day. They spray and wipe down frequently touched areas and help keep our entire buildings sanitized during the day. In addition all carpets in our buildings will be removed and replaced with a vinyl tile to allow for greater sanitation efforts.

Masks will be provided to all students and staff whenever needed. Buildings and classrooms will be set up to maintain social distancing to the greatest extent possible. Extra staff will be hired to help reduce class sizes. Groups of students will be kept within their "pod" to the greatest extent possible to limit exposure.

Vaccination efforts have been ongoing. We will offer vaccination clinics for eligible persons and students. Our staff has done an amazing job getting their vaccinations. Our efforts of coordination with our local health department and advertising campaigns worked well as over 80% of our staff are vaccinated at this time. We are told that our school district has the highest vaccination rate in the state of Ky.

We purchased portable isolation rooms for our schools that do not have space for an isolation room. Other school buildings designated a space for isolation room to contain students exhibiting symptoms. Each school will have a nurse on site to help monitor symptomatic students quickly and to do rapid covid testing. Positive cases will be quickly traced and we will work quickly and efficiently with our local health department to administer the quarantine guidelines to students and families. We will hire extra staff to help with these endeavors.

Portable standing Thermometers are placed in different high traffic areas of our school buildings. They are equipped to help with our contact tracing. They will help us to monitor people with temperatures more quickly.

We have an abundance of hand sanitizers, disinfecting sprays, sanitizing guns and tablets for them. On top of the extra sanitizers we have used and will use we are going to hire an extra custodian at our largest elementary school to help with sanitation efforts.

Substitute employees hired to be on hand each day to be placed in areas where staff have to go on quarantine. These substitutes will help with virus prevention efforts and be on hand so that we do not have a gap in our efforts in case of quarantine of staff members.

Training will be given to staff members and substitute employees on virus mitigation.

HOW WILL WOLFE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT USE ESSR FUNDS TO ADDRESS THE ACADEMIC IMPACT OF LOST INSTRUCTIONAL TIME AND SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING OF ALL STUDENTS THROUGH IMPLEMENTATIONS OF EVIDENCE-BASED INTERVENTIONS

2021-2022 budget attached

We will use the funding to accelerate learning based on the need because of learning loss due to Covid. Extended School Services offered 20-21 school year and 21-22 school year at each school. Spring semester 2021 FY we utilized all staff at all schools conduct tutoring each day. ESS targeted students who were behind and students who were virtual. We will continue ESS into the 2021-22 school year and beyond. ESS programs will utilize research based programs such as Lexie, Edgenuity and iReady and espark. Espark has earned the Research Based Design Product Certification from Digital Promise. The Product Certification serves as a rigorous, reliable signal for our district which is looking for evidence of research-based products.

The Social and Emotional learning of all students will be addressed by hiring a counselor/social worker for the middle and high school. An additional counselor/social worker will be hired for elementary students. The district will also partner with the Ridge to provide screening for students who are at high risk of self-harm or other emotionally debilitating behaviors. The employees will be required to use Evidence based SEL programs from kindergarten through high school that emphasize developmentally appropriate and culturally affirming SEL activities. To increase effectiveness, The SEL programs will include Sequenced, connected, and coordinated activities with active and passive forms of learning

with time for skill development and targeting specific SEL skills. Soft skills will also be taught at age appropriate levels.

Summer School was conducted for 3 weeks immediately after the 2020-2021 school year concluded. Summer school used the same academic research based programs as ESS, but also added strategies used in Reading Recovery which is a research based reading program. Summer school will also be held in the summer of 2022. We work with our educational coops to develop summer school activities and research based programs to utilize both in print and digitally with our students.

After gathering staff and community surveys and meeting with our Stakeholder Advisory Council we developed academies for our middle and high school students. We have created new positions and hired extra teachers to reduce class size. This will help with both social distancing and learning acceleration/tutoring needs. After gathering staff and community surveys and meeting with our Stakeholder Advisory Council we developed academies for our middle and high school students. Our administrative team worked for months developing the program and received input from parents and staff along the way via surveys. The Academies At Wolfe County Schools was approved by our school board and we hired WAVE and BRIDGE instructors at both our High and Middle School. The academies are

1. Traditional: Designed for students that prefer learning in the traditional in-person setting
2. WAVE: Designed for students who were successful with virtual learning and prefer to stay in that setting
3. BRIDGE: Designed for students behind in credits and not on target to graduate. These students use a blend of traditional and online school. The new BRIDGE teacher will be a mentor and a counselor for these students. They will help guide, motivate and assist them to BRIDGE the gap where they fell behind during COVID. The basic idea is two years in one or three years in two with these student joining one of the other academies once they have caught up with their credits. Bridge is an appropriate name because the idea is to bridge the students who were not successful in virtual classes back to school successfully with extra supports in place.

4. **SUCCESS:** These students are similar to the BRIDGE students except that they have other barriers that have prevented them being successful in a traditional setting even before Covid.

5. **EARLY COLLEGE:** Designed for students to do dual credit. Students can take college classes on our campus and be bussed to Lees College to take college classes and receive both high school and college credit for these classes. Some of these students will graduate with an Associate Degree from college at the same time they receive their high school diploma.

6. **CAREER AND TECHNICAL:** The final academy is designed for students pursuing industry certification in a Career/Technical Pathway.

HOW WILL WOLFE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT USE THE REMAINDER OF FUNDS

The remainder of ESSR funds will be spent to continue services above for the next three years. Funds leftover after that are going to be used to replace very old HVAC units. Our middle school has half of its units that need replacing that are over 30 years old. Campton Elementary has HVAC system approaching 20 years old and it will need to be replaced as well. These capital projects will allow HVAC systems to function much more efficiently to be able to utilize outside air and to turn over the air in our buildings at a much faster rate.

HOW DID THE DISTRICT CONDUCT MEANINGFUL CONSULTATION WITH REQUIRED STAKEHOLDERS

District has formed and met with stakeholder advisory council. The council includes the county judge, the city mayor, the county attorney, district judge, local business members, parents and school personnel. Among the parents on the advisory council were foster parents and parents of students with special needs. The school personnel consisted of Brandon Turner, who is President of the Wolfe

County Education Association as well as other certified and classified staff. Mr. Turner sent polls to his members to help him with his role on the council.

The district has sent surveys to staff and surveys to parents while developing the plan. SBDM councils have been consulted and provided input for principals to come back the District Administrative team which met for months developing this plan. Board meetings allow for input from anyone who would desire while board discusses budgets and ESSR funding. One calls were sent to the public to invite anyone, including civil rights organizations, to come to board meeting to have input on ESSR budgeting.

Student learning should be adequately measured on regular intervals using a research based adaptive universal screener. Iready has been proven successful for monitoring student learning according to their own published Linking study with TNReady and additional linking studies conducted locally proved correlations above the statistically acceptable measure of 0.70.

Supporting and improving virtual learning has been paramount throughout the pandemic. Edgenuity and Plato both provide online learning opportunities for virtual and in-person students to provide classes that were previously unavailable. Many anecdotal case studies were used to assist in selecting the best online virtual curriculum to provide our virtual and in-person students the best opportunities. In addition to online course work, students will have access to tutoring provided by Edgenuity. Both Edgenuity and Plato provide Kentucky aligned courses for students seeking current credits or remediation as a result from learning loss.

Wolfe County schools has been focused on literacy for the past several years since reading is critical for learning and development (Hood, Solomon, Burns; 1996). Through the purchase of Pioneer Valley reading materials, students will have access to reading materials designed for their grade levels and their individual reading Lexile scores. Teachers may differentiate instruction for each student in their class during reading time.

Summer School

Prior to the pandemic, students typically attended summer school due to poor performance at school during the previous school year (Matsudaira, 2007). Post pandemic, students attended summer for remediation, enrichment, and missed social interactions. These reasons resulted in additional opportunities for Wolfe County Schools to engage with students and further decrease learning loss at all students' levels. Teachers and instructional support staff members were integral for providing instruction for four additional weeks during the summer during the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school year. Research supports summer learning to combat learning slide (Smith, 2012), but post pandemic, additional learning is even more crucial for socially disadvantaged students (Stear, Watson and Campbell, 2017).

Classroom Sizes

Students benefit greatly from small classroom sizes. Smaller classroom sizes allow teachers more opportunities to monitor learning, mental, and physical health (Muening and Woolf, 2007). As a result of the pandemic, many students will need additional monitoring in the classroom; thus classroom size reduction is very important in achieving this goal. Additional teachers have been hired in each school to decrease classroom sizes. The additional staff also provides additional opportunities for one on one and small group instruction which is otherwise impossible to obtain. Research suggests that pull out programs are very beneficial for special needs students and those needed additional reinforcement (Hurt, 2012).

Tutoring

Combine summer school efforts with additional opportunities for students to engage in tutoring can reduce pandemic learning loss. Tutoring has been shown to improve student engagement and learning when available (Topping, 2000). Thus tutoring will be utilized during the next several school years.