

Sussex County Public Schools Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

Sussex County Public Schools
21302 Sussex Drive
Stony Creek, VA. 23882
Phone: (434) 246-1099
Fax: (434) 246-8214

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 Sussex 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 Sussex County Public Schools at (434) 246-1099.

This plan contains strategies as to how SCPS plans to recover learning loss and accelerate learning while taking into account the safety of all students, staff, and general public during this Covid-19 pandemic. This plan takes in consideration the requirement and recommendations provided by CDC, VDH, Governor Ralph Northam, and VDOE. This is a fluid plan and will be reviewed as other guidance and resources are provided by the aforementioned entities.

Section 2: Maintaining Health and Safety

Sussex 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.

CDC indicates that Schools, working together with local health departments, have an important role in slowing the spread of diseases to help ensure students have safe and healthy learning environments. Schools serve students, staff, and visitors from throughout the community. All of these people may have close contact in the school setting, often sharing spaces, equipment, and supplies.

We will follow the latest information from the CDC regarding ["Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools"](#).

In addition, Sussex County Public Schools has adopted policies on each of the following safety recommendations established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

- Universal and correct wearing of masks (All staff and students are required to wear a face mask at all times unless they are not in their office or classroom by themselves. Face masks, face shields, gloves, and gowns are available for all as they are requested. All staff and students are required to wear the masks properly making sure that they fit snug and are above the nose.)
- Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding) (All Sussex County Public Schools staff are to remain socially distant 6ft apart at all times. Protective barriers have been installed in all areas where employees might gather as well as in employee offices is applicable.)

- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette (While maintaining social distance, all students will wash their hands on at a time. Staff will monitor students to make sure they are being socially distanced at all times and will demonstrate how to properly wash hands.)
- Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation (All buildings to include all classrooms, offices, hallways, cafeteria, will be properly cleaned and sanitized on a daily basis according to the guidance provided by the CDC.)
- Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments (Contract tracing will be done by the divisional nurse in conjunction with school nurses. If a student has/develops a fever or any other symptoms aligned with COVID-19, they will need to be tested before returning to School and if the student has possibly been exposed to the COVID Virus, they will need to quarantine for at least 14 days. Contact tracing will be required in order to mitigate any spread. If an adult employee has COVID symptoms or they know that they have possibly been exposed to the Virus they will need to contact Human Resources and await further instructions, including having to possibly quarantine for up to 14 days.)
- Diagnostic and screening testing (Students and staff will be provided the opportunity to get tested each week)
- Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities (All staff, students, and community members will be provided with the opportunity to get vaccinated throughout the school year. Various dates and times will be provided to all stakeholders.)
- Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies (All students with disabilities will be treated in accordance with the ADA act and with the policies of Sussex County Public Schools.)
- Coordination with state and local health officials (The division will work with the local health district to set up times and dates to provide vaccinations for all staff, students, and the community.)

Section 3: Continuity of Services

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

Sussex County Public Schools students return to In-Person Instruction 5 days per week on Tuesday, September 7th. At this time approximately 10% of our students will be attending Virtual Virginia or Virtual Attendance via our Teachers offering in-person instruction.

- Live instruction will be delivered by our teachers and for a limited number through scheduled Zoom video sessions.
- Self-paced instruction will also be provided through the Learning Management System (LMS) for each education level.
- Students will continue to have access to their school's social-emotional and mental health resources, as well as services for students in English Language Learner, Special Education and/or Gifted and Talented programs.
- School-family teams will work together to determine whether and how a student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 services can be provided in each learning scenario.
- Students that attend outside Schools will have the option to begin attending the following Schools on Monday, March 15, 2021: Rowanty Technical Center, Appomattox Regional Governor's School, BREC Academy, Believe-NU, CODE RVA, Specialized Youth Services, John Tyler Community College and Richard Bland College.

Section 4: Opportunity for Public Comment

In developing the ARP ESSER Plan, Sussex County Public Schools sought public input and took such input into account as described below.

Sussex County Public School developed and sent out an online survey to seek support and information from parents, staff, students, and the overall community. This online survey was available for a three - week period. In developing and implementing the overall ARP ESSER plan, consideration of the online comments was taken into account and included within the plan.

Section 5: Periodic Review and Revision of Plan

During the period of the ARP ESSER award (until September 2023), Sussex County Public Schools 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 Sussex County Public Schools 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

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

- The plan is posted at www.sussex.k12.va.us under the quick links section;
- The plan is available in multiple languages (English and Spanish);
- The plan may be orally translated for parents. Contact Sussex County Public Schools at (434) 246-1099 to request translation; and
- 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 Sussex County Public Schools at (434) 246-1099.