



Highland County Public Schools Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services for the 2021-2022 School Year

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 Highland 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 Dr. Thomas Schott, Superintendent Highland County Schools.

Below you will find a list for the safe return to in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year.

- School will operate 5 days a week.
- The school year is scheduled for 180 school days.
- Instruction will take place in-person.
 - Excluding Virtual Virginia online classes.
- Primary instruction will take place within the school building.
- Mask protocol will be determined by:
 - Recommendations by the CDC
 - Recommendations by the VHD
 - Recommendations by VDOE
- Physical distancing protocol within the school building will be determined by:
 - Recommendations by the CDC



- Recommendations by the VHD
- Recommendations by VDOE
- Physical distancing protocol while on the school buses will be determined by:
 - Recommendations by the CDC
 - Recommendations by the VHD
 - Recommendations by VDOE
- Highland County Public Schools will do the best within their ability to meet or exceed all physical requirements.
- All services required by students, as listed on the IEP, will take place as needed.
- All services of non-Special Education students will take place as needed.

Please send feedback on these proposed items to Dr. Thomas Schott, tschott@highland.k12.va.us

Section 2: Maintaining Health and Safety

Highland 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.

- Universal and correct wearing of masks
- Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities
- Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments, and the local medical center.
- Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities:



1. Have worked with the local medical facility to hold vaccination clinic for staff on (February 2021– March 2021).
 2. Have worked with the local medical facility to hold vaccination clinic for students on (June 2021).
- Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies
 - Coordination with state and local health officials
 - Highland County Public Schools will do the best within their ability to meet or exceed all physical requirements.

Section 3: Continuity of Services

Highland 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.

1. Extended Summer School (8 weeks, 3 days a week, 4 hours a day).
2. Additional remediation personnel during the school day for the 21-22 school year.

Section 4: Opportunity for Public Comment

In developing the ARP ESSER Plan, Highland County Public Schools sought public input and took such input into account when developing this plan. The Return to School Plan was placed on Facebook, and on the district website.



Section 5: Periodic Review and Revision of Plan

During the period of the ARP ESSER award (until September 2023), Highland County Public School 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 Highland County Public Schools will seek and consider 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

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

- The plan is posted at <https://www.highland.k12.va.us/domain/280>
- The plan is available in multiple languages, upon request.
- The plan may be orally translated for parents, upon requested