

# WYTHE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1570 West Reservoir Street Wytheville, VA 24382

276-228-5411

<https://wythe.k12.va.us/>

## *Continuity of School Services Plan*

**2021-2022**

### **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 Wythe 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. Scott L. Jefferies, Superintendent of Wythe County Public Schools at 276-228-5411

Given the tremendous impact COVID has had on our school division, Wythe County Public Schools has shown we can return students and staff to our buildings in a way that provides a safe and stable education. As a result of the strides made in the second semester, Wythe County Public Schools will return to full-time, in-person classes this fall for the 2021-2022 school year. Schools will resume the 8:15 AM - 3:15 PM daily schedule five days a week. Please see the WCPS 2021-2022 School Calendar on our website for more information.

### **IN-PERSON LEARNING**

It is important that structure and consistency be established during the first weeks of in-person school. Key components of in-person learning will be:

- Reconnecting with students and families
- Identifying academic gaps and developing strategies to ensure student success
- Reestablishing school norms and activities
- Reintegrating strategies such as hands-on learning, collaboration, deep critical thinking, and investigation
- Reintroducing students to additional in-person educational resources

### **VIRTUAL LEARNING OPTION**

WCPS will also offer a new virtual learning program for families who choose to continue to participate in distance learning due to concerns from the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The 2021-2022 school year will be significantly different for those opting to continue as virtual learners. Virtual learners will experience the following changes:

Students will not be taught by WCPS teachers, rather by teachers employed through Virtual Virginia

- Daily class schedules will be established by Virtual Virginia. Please see the following sample schedules provided by Virtual Virginia: Sample [Elementary Synchronous Schedule](#) and Sample [Secondary Synchronous Schedule](#)
- Virtual students must commit to an entire semester before they have the option of returning to in-person

- Students must have reliable internet to participate

A WCPS student who chooses to participate in Virtual Virginia will remain a Wythe County Public School student enrolled in their designated home school. Home schools will be assigned based on the physical address where the student resides. Students may have their picture in the yearbook, participate in graduation ceremonies, and participate in school extracurricular activities. Please contact your school's principal with any questions regarding Virtual Virginia.

## SCHOOL MEALS

WCPS Food Services will operate under the USDA and VDOE guidelines for the 2021-2022 school year beginning August 16th. ALL students will be eligible to receive FREE daily breakfast and lunch. Food options will be grade level specific as stated by USDA requirements.

## ATHLETICS & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Athletics and extracurricular activities will be permitted to operate following mitigation requirements at the time these events will occur. Season schedules for athletics will follow VHSL guidance.

## SUPPORTS FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

WCPS will continue to provide student and family support by emphasizing reconnection and strengthening relationships, with a focus on social and emotional support. Students' hard work, persistence, and ability to adapt to changes over time will be highlighted and celebrated as we continue into the next school year. We are pleased to welcome back to campus those students who were previously on distance learning, and emphasize that virtual learners remain an important part of our school community. All of our counselors maintain virtual offices as well as offices on campus, and counseling appointments can be made through the school's counselor website or by calling the school. WCPS invites and welcomes all parents to be involved with their child's academics, teachers, school, and school activities.

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

Wythe 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.

Wythe County Public Schools will follow the public health guidelines and recommendations of CDC and VDOE.

In addition, Wythe 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 and modification of facilities to allow for physical distancing
  - Schools are encouraged to social distance to the greatest extent possible. Schools will implement a combination of face coverings and a minimum of three feet distance between everyone present until restrictions are lifted by State Officials based on CDC guidelines.
  - Common areas may be utilized when three feet distancing with masks are possible.
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
  - Students will continue frequent handwashing and utilization of hand sanitizer throughout the day. Students will be reminded to cover their mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, and dispose of tissues immediately after using.

- Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation
  - WCPS will maintain all current cleaning protocols.
- Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments
  - WCPS will partner with the Mount Rogers Health District to conduct contract tracing.
- Diagnostic and screening testing
  - WCPS will partner with the Mount Rogers Health District to facilitate Covid-19 testing
- Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities
  - WCPS will continue to partner with the Wythe County Health Department to provide immunizations and vaccines to our school population.
- Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies
  - WCPS will develop IEP and 504 plans with family and school partnerships to provide accommodations with respect to health and safety.
- Coordination with state and local health officials
  - WCPS will continue to partner local and state health officials to maintain up-to-date mitigation and safety strategies.
- All staff will complete COVID-19 safety training prior to reopening schools.

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

Wythe County Public Schools have 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.

In order to provide key transition support to our students, WCPS will host a staggered opening of the 2021-2022 school year. Parents and students will have the opportunity to attend an open house visitation for all our schools on Thursday, August 12. In addition, we will be offering a more personalized experience for our Pre-K, Kindergarten, 6th, and 9th Graders to welcome them to their new school environment.

#### **Elementary**

Elementary Schools will open with a normal five day per week schedule. Pre-K and Kindergarten students will continue to start the year with a staggered entry to allow teachers to build relationships with students and families. Elementary students will experience traditional classes and schedules. Our focus will be to establish routines while focusing on the educational, social, and emotional needs of the children. Elementary Schools will communicate these plans to their families as the school year approaches.

#### **Middle & High School**

In order to familiarize new students with their school and routine, and to start relationship-building with staff, students will return to school on a staggered schedule:

**Monday, August 16:** 6th and 9th grade students attend

**Tuesday, August 17:** All students attend (Grades 6-12)

To ensure the development of basic skills, mastery of the Standards of Learning, and fulfillment of state and federal educational requirements as a foundation for all further academic, social, emotional and mental health the following will occur:

- Individual and small group remediation will be provided to ensure students get on track with learning in reading and math. Provide state approved K-12 curriculum aligned to the Virginia Standards of Learning.
- Utilize various sources of assessment data to make informed instructional decisions for each child within the first two weeks of school.
- Provide ongoing formative assessments to identify instructional needs of each student and determine learning losses due to limited instruction caused by the pandemic.
- WCPS will continue to utilize numerous diagnostic and screening testing and utilize numerous sources of data points for diagnostic reading and math such as SOL Student Detail by Question, Achieve 3000, PALS, VKRP, Lexile, Benchmarks, etc.
- All required Standard of Learning assessments will be given to students in a testing environment regardless of in-person or In the Region VII Virtual Academy.
- An ongoing evaluation of academic, social, emotional and mental health needs will occur throughout the school year for adjustments as needed.

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

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

In developing the ESSR plan, WCPS sought public input and considered such input as described below.

- The plan will be shared with the school board on June 10, 2021 in an effort to get public comment and suggestions on the plan.
- The plan will be shared on the division website at <https://wythe.k12.va.us/> and the public can share their input by sending an email to [publiccomment@wythek12.org](mailto:publiccomment@wythek12.org).
- Paper copies of the plan will be in school offices for parent access.
- Paper copies will be mailed upon parent request.
- Additional information and resources will be available on the division website to ensure stakeholders are well informed.

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

During the period of the ARP ESSER award (until September 2023), Wythe 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 Wythe 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**

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

- The plan is posted at <https://wythe.k12.va.us/> ;
- The plan is available in multiple languages upon request;

- The plan may be translated for parents. Contact your child's building principal 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 the Director of Special Education, Susan Hill at 276-228-5411

**\*This plan is subject to change based on updated guidance from VDOE, VDH, and CDC.**