

Amelia County Public Schools

The logo of Amelia County Public Schools is a circular seal. It features a central figure holding a torch, surrounded by the text "AMELIA COUNTY VIRGINIA" and the dates "1734-33".

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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 Amelia County Public Schools (ACPS) 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. Jan Medley, Director of Student Services at medleyj@ameliaschools.com or (804) 561-2621.

Section 2: Maintaining Health and Safety

Amelia 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. Regular, ongoing communication within ACPS and the Piedmont Health District has created an environment where mitigation strategies have been successful across the school division.

Current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) along with input from school division and community members have been used to create ACPS' COVID-19 Prevention Health Plan. This plan outlines ACPS's mitigation practices and COVID-19 response. The complete plan can be viewed at:

<https://www.amelia.k12.va.us/covidresponse>

Please contact Dr. Jan Medley, Director of Student Services, at 804-561-2621 to ask questions or seek additional information.

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

Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing:

Based on the latest CDC guidance, physical distancing will be implemented as needed using the modification of layouts of classrooms and communal spaces. Classroom occupancy will not be limited or modified, but schools will provide physical distancing to the greatest extent possible.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette:

Prevention strategies will be communicated with parents and students prior to the start of school along with resources to support practicing healthy hygiene. Hand sanitizer will be available in communal areas throughout the building and in classrooms. Students and staff will be encouraged to wash hands frequently.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation:

ACPS continues to utilize established cleaning protocols that are consistent with current CDC recommendations. Supplies such as hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, soap, and paper towels will be available in restrooms and classrooms. Central Office staff will work with building administrators to evaluate and replenish inventory as needed. Disinfecting wipes and cleaning supplies will be available for teachers. Hand sanitizer will be available in communal areas throughout the building and in classrooms. Students and staff will be encouraged to wash hands frequently. High-touch surfaces such as railing, handles, etc. will be disinfected regularly. Students will practice good hand hygiene. Bottle filling stations have been installed in each school building to eliminate the need for students to access water fountains via the traditional method. Water fountains that cannot be replaced will be turned off or covered and bottle filling stations will be used. Students will be encouraged to bring their own disposable water bottles to school. The maintenance department will continue current protocols to monitor water quality and safety. Our current ventilation system constantly brings in outside air and has appropriate damper positioning to maximize air flow. The maintenance personnel will monitor this process frequently to ensure optimal functioning. Air ionizers have been installed in each building to support clean air within the facilities.

Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments:

Contact tracing will be overseen by the Division Nurse and conducted in accordance with the Piedmont Health District guidelines. Positive COVID-19 cases or exposures will be reported to each school and information collected from the parent. ACPS will continue to communicate and collaborate with the Piedmont Health District will communicate with parents and employees regarding return-to-work or return-to-school dates as needed for isolation, quarantine, and exposure.

Diagnostic and screening testing: Amelia County Public Schools has advertised to the school community regarding local and regional diagnostic and screening events sponsored by the Piedmont Health District.

Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities: Amelia County Public Schools will work with the Piedmont Health District to hold vaccination clinics as community interest warrants.

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies: Special education services and accommodations will be met through direct in-person instruction and special education support will be provided for virtual students participating in Virtual Virginia, in compliance with IEPs. Case managers will contact families of students with disabilities and amend IEPs for each individual student's needs.

Coordination with state and local health officials: The Division Superintendent collaborates with the Director of the Piedmont Health District as needed. Amelia County Public Schools consults the Piedmont Health District regarding questions related to quarantining and isolating students and staff members as well as provides data as requested.

Section 3: Continuity of Services

Amelia 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.

Academic Needs: For the 2022-2023 school year, all students have the option to receive in-person instruction, five days per week or virtual instruction through Virtual Virginia, five days per week. All students will be issued a standard Chromebook (grades 3-12) or a Chromebook touch screen device (grades PreK– 2) to support instruction and access Schoology, the division's learning management system. Students participating in virtual instruction through Virtual Virginia will receive a hot spot on a request or needed basis. School administrators and teachers have worked to ensure that all instructional gaps in learning have been addressed through adjustments to the written, taught, and assessed curriculum. The Virginia Tiered System of Supports (VTSS), a systematic, continuous-improvement framework of data-based problem solving and decision making is implemented throughout ACPS. A Learning Enhancement Initiative to include afterschool camps and clubs, day tutors, extended Twilight Academy for credit recovery, and extended summer school has been and will continue to be implemented during the 2022-2023 school year. In addition, all teachers, administrators, and support staff have received training on Schoology, Google Classroom, and other instructional technology applications.

Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs: A school division social worker/behavioral specialist was hired during the 2020-2021 school year. Elementary school counselors and teachers will implement character education and continue their use of Sanford Harmony curriculum to address social-emotional goals. All schools will implement Virginia Tiered System of Supports (VTSS), along with continued focuses on Sanford Harmony curriculum and Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) at both the elementary and secondary levels. School Counseling websites will be updated with resources links for students and parents on various counseling topics. School counselors will include monthly student celebrations regarding success with academics, behavior and attendance. Homeroom teachers will provide social-emotional support through Morning Meetings and school counselors will follow up with student supports as needed. School administration, counselors, and teachers will work to establish consistent communication and form relationships with parents.

Food and Nutrition Needs: All students, regardless of family income, are offered both free breakfast and free lunch through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP).

Section 4: Opportunity for Public Comment

In developing the ARP ESSER Plan, Amelia County Public Schools sought public input through a Google survey which was advertised to parents and community members through School Messenger and the school division's Facebook page. The survey is also posted on the school division website and can be found at: <https://www.amelia.k12.va.us/home>.

Section 5: Periodic Review and Revision of Plan

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

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

- **The plan is posted at:** https://www.amelia.k12.va.us/c_o_v_i_d_response
- **The plan is available in multiple languages:** The plan is available in English; however, translation will be made available to parents upon request.
- **The plan may be orally translated for parents:** Contact Dr. Cynthia Reasoner, Director of Instruction at reasonerc@ameliaschools.com or (804) 561-2621 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 Dr. Jan Medley, Director of Student Services at medleyj@ameliaschools.com or (804) 561-2621.