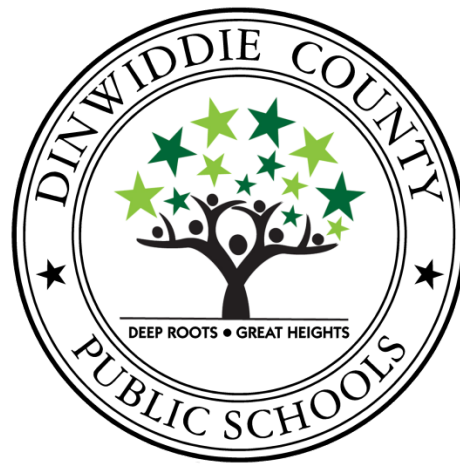


Dinwiddie County Public Schools Safe Return to In-Person Learning and Continuity of Services



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This document exists in compliance with Section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act and U.S. Department of Education's Interim Final Rule requiring each LEA that receives ARP ESSER III funds to submit a plan that describes how it will safely return to in-person instruction and ensure continuity of services, including LEAs that have already returned to in-person instruction.

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 Dinwiddie County Public Schools (DCPS) 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 NaTonya Robinson-Williams, Coordinator of Communication and Media Relations.

Section 2: Maintaining Health and Safety

Dinwiddie County Public Schools has implemented a COVID-19 Task Force (Task Force) to provide guidance, information, and support in all areas related to the coronavirus outbreak. The Task Force's central focus has been on protecting the health and safety of students, faculty, and staff. The Task Force is composed of various Leadership Teams. Each team's objective has been to ensure all schools and administration buildings follow all health and safety guidelines and governor's orders, as well as provide training and updates to staff regarding all COVID-19 mitigation measures.

Task Force Teams

District Leadership Team

- Superintendent – Dr. Kari Weston
- Chief Academic Officer- Dr. Amanda Clay
- Chief Operations Officer- Jeff Walters
- Elementary Education -Becky Baskerville
- Secondary Education - Carly Woolfolk
- Distance Learning – Chuck Moss
- Exceptional Education - Dr. Pam Joyner
- Early Childhood/Literacy/EL - Penny Brooks
- Chief Finance Officer – Christie Fleming
- Chief Human Resources Officer – Emily Branch
- Health Services – Michelle Powell
- Communication and Media Relations – NaTonya Robinson-Williams
- School Facilities – Jimmy Davis
- School Nutrition Services – Marion Elder
- Technology – Timothy Ampy
- Transportation – Edward Tucker
- Executive Assistant – Bonnie Gholson

School Leadership Team

- Dinwiddie High – Robbie Garnes, Principal
- Dinwiddie Middle – Brenton Byrd, Principal
- Dinwiddie Elementary – LeighAnn Adams, Principal
- Midway Elementary – Randall Johnson, Principal

- Southside Elementary – Sheri Culbreath, Principal
- Sunnyside Elementary – Davis Roberts, Principal
- Sutherland Elementary – Javonda Tucker, Principal

Health Services Leadership Team

- Dr. Alton Hart, Jr., Director, Crater Health District
- Katrina Saphrey/Courtney Ayers, Crater Health District
- Christie Reiter, RN, School Nurse, Dinwiddie High School
- Caren Edwards, School Nurse, Sutherland Elementary
- Jessica Clay, School Nurse, Sunnyside Elementary
- Kandy Spease, School Nurse, Midway Elementary
- Christal Stinnett, School Nurse, Dinwiddie Elementary
- I. David Dayvault, School Nurse, Dinwiddie Middle
- Kimberly Salama, School Nurse, Southside Elementary

Dinwiddie County Public Schools has taken actions to ensure the health and safety of students, staff, and visitors during its full return to in-person instruction. Regular, ongoing communication within DCPS, local Dinwiddie County Emergency Services, and the Crater Virginia Department of Health has created an environment where mitigation strategies have been successful across settings.

Current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) along with input from division stakeholders have been used to create the “DCPS Health & Safety Measures” plan. This plan outlines DCPS’s mitigation practices. This plan is regularly reviewed. The complete plan can be viewed at <https://www.dinwiddie.k12.va.us/return-to-learn/health-safety-measures/>. Please contact Michelle Powell, Coordinator of Student Services, at 804-469-4190 should you have questions about the plan.

DCPS has adopted practices on each of the following safety recommendations established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Masks

At this time according to the Virginia Department of Health, [K12 Schools and Childcare](#) guidance, masks are not routinely recommended in school settings, indoors or outdoors, except when returning to school/child care after isolation. Any individual who wishes to continue to mask, including those who face higher risk from COVID-19, may do so as an option. Masking is never recommended in school settings while the individual is eating, drinking, sleeping, or for children under the age of 2. Dinwiddie County Public Schools will continue to follow the latest available guidance provided by the CDC and the Virginia Department of Health with regard to mask wearing on school grounds and while participating/attending school events (indoors, outdoors, etc.)

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Dinwiddie County Public Schools will continue to promote proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

DCPS continues utilizing cleaning protocols consistent with CDC recommendations, to include using cleaning products identified as approved disinfectants for the SAR-CoV-2 virus. Disinfecting wipes have been available in all rooms in order to wipe down work spaces periodically throughout the day. Water fountains are retrofitted into a bottle filling station. All fountains and faucets continue to be flushed on a regular basis to maintain a healthy water system within the buildings.

Reusable masks will continue to be available to students and staff as needed. Each school will receive an adequate supply of PPE supplies to meet current CDC recommendations. These supplies will be replenished, as requested.

All of the HVAC systems have been reviewed and adjusted for optimal ventilation in accordance with CDC and ASHRAE recommendations. Exhaust fans have been checked and repaired as required. System filters have been upgraded where existing systems allowed and systems that couldn't have upgraded filters have had the filters changed on a more frequent basis. Southside Elementary had a new HVAC system installed during the summer of 2021. New or updated HVACs are planned for the other locations.

Diagnostic testing

School nurses have a limited number of COVID-19 tests available.

Quarantine/Isolation Guidelines

Dinwiddie County Public Schools is following the guidance from the CDC and the VDH. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), quarantine is no longer recommended for people who are exposed to COVID-19. Testing is recommended for people with symptoms of COVID-19 as soon as possible after symptoms begin. Possible symptoms could include fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.

If you test positive for COVID-19, please review the CDC's [isolation guidance](#): stay home for 5 days, isolate from others in your home and wear a mask when indoors around others at home and in public through day 10. After day 5, the CDC does state that if you have 2 sequential negative tests 48 hours apart, you may remove your mask sooner.

Regarding ending isolation, the CDC stresses that if you tested positive for COVID-19 and had no symptoms, you may end isolation after day 5. If you tested positive for COVID-19 with symptoms, you

may also end isolation after day 5 if you are fever free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and your symptoms are improving.

The CDC has created a COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation Calculator to assist with isolation and precautions. (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/isolation.html>)

Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities

According to the VDH, staying current on COVID-19 vaccinations is the leading public health strategy to prevent severe disease. Dinwiddie County Public Schools is prepared and willing to partner with the Crater Health District to provide vaccination events for students, staff and the community.

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies

Dinwiddie County Public Schools School Health Services will continue to work in collaboration with students, families, schools and providers to meet the medical, health, and safety needs of our students. Health plans are designed specifically for an individual student. School Health representatives also participate in 504 meetings to address health concerns.

Coordination with state and local health officials

DCPS School Health Services continues to collaborate with the Crater Health District and follows guidelines from VDH and the CDC.

Section 3: Continuity of Services

Dinwiddie 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 of DCPS will have the option to receive in-person instruction, five days a week. Additionally, 70 students were approved for virtual learning and will receive instruction via Virtual Virginia or the Edmentum learning platform.

Students were approved for virtual instruction based on the following criteria: access to high-speed internet; documented medical need (student or household family member); performance over the last two years (virtual and in-person); availability of in-home family support; social-emotional needs of the student; and attendance for 2021-2022 school year. The Dinwiddie Virtual Academy will serve as the fully virtual option for students. The Director of Innovation & Development will oversee this program. Virtual students are assigned a school-based mentor to provide check-ins and serve as a liaison to remain connected to the school system as these

students' virtual teachers are non-DCPS staff (Virtual Virginia teachers). It is anticipated that 2022-23 will be the final year for full-time virtual options.

Teams have worked to all ensure that ALL gaps in learning have been addressed through adjustments to the taught and tested curriculum. DCPS is committed to ensuring that every student reads on level by grade 3.

Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) is a systematic, continuous-improvement framework in which data-based problem solving and decision-making is implemented across all disciplines. MTSS is used in all DCPS schools to address the unique learning needs of ALL students.

A Reading Specialist is now at every school.

Professional development activities for staff are focused on John Hattie's effective instructional practices, culturally responsive classrooms, and literacy.

Expanded tutoring, remediation, and intervention opportunities continue to be implemented to address learning gaps and mastery of concepts.

Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

School social workers and school counselors will continue to work together to address the developmental needs and mental health needs of all learners.

Modifications have been made to the duties of school counselors to provide them additional time to work directly with students.

School staff are making home visits to families to help with attendance, wellness checks, and community outreach efforts.

School counselors, social workers, and psychologists work collaboratively to support students' needs through a variety of services that include tele-health, peer groups, and virtual sessions.

Pre K-12 teachers across the county will utilize Morning Meeting or Advisory to address social-emotional learning needs of students daily.

Student Health Needs

Vaccination efforts will continue through collaboration with the Crater Virginia Department of Health as needed for students, staff and the community.

In 2022-2023, School Health Services and schools will continue to educate and inform staff and students on guidelines to maintain everyone's safety and wellbeing.

Food Nutrition Services

For the 2022-2023 school year, all enrolled students will receive school meals at no cost. Many new menu items have been added to provide students more choices. The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program will introduce elementary students to a variety of produce.

Section 4: Opportunity for Public Comment

In developing the grant funding and reopening plans, families, students, and staff have had opportunities to provide public comment and feedback through multiple venues, including the following:

- An opportunity to submit public comment online for each School Board meeting, and the comments submitted are shared with the School Board, superintendent and Division Leadership Team at each School Board meeting;
- An opportunity to provide public comment in-person at School Board meetings;
- Direct emails to the School Board, the Superintendent, and/or the Dinwiddie County Public Schools;
- Division staff submitted needs and feedback to building administration and/or supervisor for consideration;
- Surveys of families, staff, and students regarding the school reopening plans; and
- Information was provided to students, staff and families regarding the safety and wellbeing of our students, staff and families. with contact information provided should the public have questions and/or concerns.
- In developing the ESSER Plan, DCPS continues to seek public input and takes input into account when developing and/or revising plans for the 2022-2023 school year and beyond to meet the needs of our students, staff, and families.

Section 5: Periodic Review and Revision of Plan

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

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

The plan is posted at <https://www.dinwiddie.k12.va.us/return-to-learn/>

The plan is also available in Spanish, and can be translated into additional languages (written and verbal) upon request. Please contact the School Board Office at 804-469-4190 for translation assistance. Parents may also work directly with their school for translation needs related to school specific information.

Upon request, a parent or guardian with a disability as defined by the ADA may be provided with the plan in an alternative format, by contacting the School Board Office at 804-469-4190.