

# WYTHE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2023 - 2024

## ***Continuity of School Services Plan***

*Engaging all students in partnership with family and community to develop creative minds, critical thinkers, and upstanding citizens.*

**Revised August 1, 2023**

**Special Note: School years 22-23 and 23-24 are not Covid modified schedules and we are in person for a full 180 days.**

**The below sections are only utilized if needed.**

### **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. Brad B. Haga, Director of Finance and Operations of Wythe County Public Schools at 276-228-5411.

Wythe County Public Schools will return to full-time, in-person classes this fall. Schools will resume the 8:15 AM - 3:15 PM daily schedule five days a week. Please see the [WCPS 2023-2024 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 virtual learning program for families who choose to continue to participate in distance learning due to concerns from the COVID-19 Pandemic or need an alternative learning option.

The 2023-2024 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, but by teachers employed through Virtual Virginia/Stride
- Daily class schedules and academic assignments will be established by Virtual Virginia/Stride.
- Virtual students must commit to an entire school year before being admitted.
- Students must have reliable internet to participate.

A WCPS student who chooses to participate in Virtual Virginia/Stride 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/Stride.

## SCHOOL MEALS

WCPS Food Services will operate under the USDA and VDOE guidelines for the 2023-2024 school year beginning August 15th. 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. Athletic programs will follow stated VHSL guidance at the time the events will occur.

## 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 full in-person instruction. A description of actions taken are below.

WCPS will follow all current CDC and state guidelines and recommendations regarding school safety, cleaning, and mitigation strategies.

In addition, WCPS has adopted policies and procedures on the following safety recommendations.

- 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.
- 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 with local and state health officials to maintain up-to-date mitigation and safety strategies.
- All staff have completed COVID-19 safety training.

### **SECTION 3: CONTINUITY OF SERVICES**

In order to provide key transition support to our students, WCPS will host a full opening of the 2023-2024 school year. Parents and students will have the opportunity to attend an open house visitation for all our schools on Thursday, August 10. 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, students will return to school on a staggered schedule:

Tuesday, August 15: 6th and 9th grade students attend

Wednesday, August 16: 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 needs, the following will occur:

- Individual and small group remediation will be provided to ensure increased student achievement in reading and math. Ensure that all instruction is aligned with the 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 assessment to identify instructional needs of each student.
- Utilize a balanced and varied assessment plan that includes diagnostic formative/summative assessments, as well as project-based assessments.
- All required Standard of Learning assessments will be given to students in a testing environment regardless of in-person or virtual environments.
- 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**

During the development of the ARP ESSER III plan, Wythe County Public Schools sought public input and took input into account as described below.

- The plan was shared with the school board on June 10, 2021 in an effort to get public comment and suggestions on the plan.
- The plan was shared on the division website at <http://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 were placed in each school office for parent access.
- Paper copies are mailed upon parent request.
- Additional information and resources are available on the division website to ensure stakeholders are well informed.

## **SECTION 5: PERIODIC REVIEW AND REVISION OF THE PLAN**

During the period of the ARP ESSER III award (until September 2024), 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 WCPS will seek and take into account public input during the review process. Plan revisions will address updated federal, state, and local guidance on safely reopening schools, if any are issues.

## **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 <http://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.**