**Appendix C**

**LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services**

**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 Richmond City Public Schools (RPS) 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 Sabrina Beamon, Grant Manager – sbeamon@rvaschools.net

**Section 2: Maintaining Health and Safety**

RPS 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.

RPS has adopted policies on each of the following safety recommendations.

* Universal and correct wearing of masks
	+ Please note that the School Board approved a change to our [COVID-19 mask policy](https://t.e2ma.net/click/fer8qi/7j6huw/zt48usb). Given that Richmond has been in the "low" community risk level (according to the CDC) for several weeks, **masks are now optional**for all RPS students, staff, and visitors – both indoors and outdoors (unless you are recovering from a COVID-19 infection). Please note, however, that **if** **we return to the "high" CDC risk level for two consecutive weeks, our mask mandate will be reinstated**.
	+ Masks will be provided to anyone who does not have one.
* Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
	+ Every classroom and common area have a wall-mounted hand sanitizer station.
	+ All bathrooms have touchless paper towel and soap dispensers.
* Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation
	+ Standalone HEP filtration units have been placed in all classrooms and common areas.
	+ Building HVAC systems have upgraded air filters.
	+ All buses are equipped with air filtration systems and will keep windows open, weather permitting.
* Diagnostic and screening testing
	+ Families, students, and staff will be required to self-check at home before coming to school.
* Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities
	+ All staff, families, and eligible students are strongly encouraged to get the vaccine and applicable boosters.
* Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies are provided.
* Coordination with state and local health officials
	+ Coordination with state and local health officials will occur if a future need arises.

**Section 3: Continuity of Services**

RPS 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.

Students’ social, emotional, and mental wellbeing remains a top priority. RPS is increasing partnerships with community-based mental health providers such as ChildSavers, Richmond Behavioral Health Authority, and Communities in Schools to provide personalized support to students. Additional resources include the continuation of RPS’ Family Engagement and Support programming, English Language Academic Support, and Center for Families in Transition.

For more information on these and other continuing services, visit RPS #ReopenWithLove2.0 webpage [link: https://www.rvaschools.net/domain/2055].

**Section 4: Opportunity for Public Comment**

In developing the ARP ESSER Plan, RPS sought public input and took such input into account as described below.

The public was given the opportunity to address the ARP planning process and expectations at the superintendent’s monthly Advisory Board Meetings, and scheduled bi-monthly School Board meetings. The current draft of this plan responds to the needs assessment conduct by the Division as well as the priorities raised by public comments. Advisory Council meetings are on-going and ARP planning and funding will continue to be monitored and evaluated with public input.

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

During the period of the ARP ESSER award (until September 2023), RPS 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 RPS will seek and consider public input during the review process. Plan revisions will address updated CDC guidance, if any are issued.

Plan revisions will be discussed during School Board meetings and Superintendent’s Advisory Council Meetings.

The School Board meets on the **first and third Monday of each month, beginning at 6:00pm**.

The Superintendent’s Advisory Council Meetingsare as follows:

**Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council – 1st Thursday of the month, 6:00pm**

The Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council bring together Richmond Public Schools (RPS) high school students to help shape policy, ensure that student voice is a meaningful part of decision making and advocacy efforts, and serves as a bridge between the administration and the student body. For more information, please contact Chief Engagement Office, Dr. Shadae Harris.

**Superintendent’s Parent Advisory Council – 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6:00pm**

Superintendent’s Parent Advisory Council brings together 25 parents from diverse backgrounds with the administration to engage in true partners in the educational process. The Parent Advisory Council is divided into three focus groups: Go Far Together, Advocacy, and Parent Resources & Engagement.

**Superintendent’s Teacher Advisory Council – 3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:00pm**

The Superintendent’s Teacher Advisory Council brings together 25 teachers to help shape policy and ensure rigorous and exciting teaching and learning for all our students. For more information contact Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Tracy Epp.

**Superintendent’s Principal Advisory Council – 4th Tuesday of the month, 6:00pm**

The Superintendent’s Principal Advisory Council allows principals the opportunity to contribute to shaping policy and ensuring RPS is positioned to meet the goals of Dream4RPs.

**Section 6: Making the Plan Available to the Public**

RPS has taken the following steps to make this plan available to the public:

* The plan is posted at <https://www.rvaschools.net/operating-office/grants-management/arp-esser> (This address is an update.)
* The plan is available in English and Spanish;
* The plan may be orally translated for parents. Contact Dr. Janette Duhart- jduhart@rvaschools.net 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 Ms. Renesha Parks- rparks1@rvaschools.net