

Greene County Public Schools ARP ESSER Plan

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Greene County Public Schools ARP ESSER Plan for 2022-23

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 Greene County Public Schools will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and division staff during the 2022-23 school year. Questions about this plan should be directed to Kyle Pursel, kpursel@greencountyschools.com, 434-939-9000.

For the 2022-23 school year, GCPS will continue to offer instruction for all students 5 days a week while also providing intervention, remediation, and tutoring, as necessary.

Section 2: Maintaining Health and Safety

Greene 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. A description of actions already taken throughout the pandemic can be found by reviewing the [2021-22 ARP ESSER Plan](#). Adjustments have been made as necessary and can be found at the end of this document.

Greene County Public Schools will continue to practice the following mitigations strategies in order keep students and staff safe and healthy.

- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette. All students and staff have been provided training on proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette. Additionally, scheduling has been modified to allow more frequent handwashing for students and staff.
- Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation. Sanitation efforts have increased to include utilization of sanitation sprayers, frequent disinfecting of surfaces, improving ventilation, installation of air purifiers, and disinfection of desks and workspaces.
- Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.
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Recent additional mitigation strategies since the end of 2021-22

- Adding air conditioning units to school buses. This is an on-going process.
- Replacement of all HVAC units for RES
- Replacements of select HVAC units in WMHS

Section 3: Continuity of Services

Greene 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.

Student Academic Needs: GCPS has provided in person learning options for all students from the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year that began on September 8th, 2020. This included options for student intervention services, tutoring, remediation, and options for additional in school learning time for students in grades 6 – 12 in our blended learning model. Additionally, students who opted to attend virtually received supports from GCPS teachers and interventionists as well as support with technology access to include home visits, community hotspots, and school division issued wireless hotspots. For the 2022-23 school year, GCPS will offer in person instruction for all students five days a week that will include intervention, remediation, and tutoring, as necessary. GCPS has also hired success coaches to work with at-risk or off grade level students and will be providing expanded summer school access opportunities. Due to the success of the program, GCPS has hired an addition 2-3 success coaches to work with at-risk or off grade level students to work with students and families.

Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs: GCPS has provided a strong focus on social, emotional, and mental health for students and staff throughout the pandemic. This has included intentional curriculum modifications with a direct focus on social and emotional learning, support from behavior coaches and school psychologists, and counselors. Additionally, GCPS has utilized school social workers to provide direct support to families and students as we have navigated the pandemic. Moving forward, the school division has increased support for SEL and mental health needs by developing an integrated SEL curriculum for students, hiring additional counselors and school psychologists, and adding student success coaches to support students' transitions. Staff have also been provided opportunities for self-care activities, counseling, and support for their own mental health needs.

Section 4: Opportunity for Public Comment

In developing the ARP ESSER Plan, Greene County Public Schools sought public input and took such input into account as described below. This included multiple opportunities for public input through a Return to Learn task force, public webinars, FAQ postings, school board meetings, school and division level parent conferences, and ongoing community with public stakeholders.

For 2022-23, GCPS provided an opportunity for public input through board meeting comments, ongoing discussions with community members and through a survey sent to all parents and posted on our website. [American Rescue Act Survey – May 2022](#)

Section 5: Periodic Review and Revision of Plan

During the period of the ARP ESSER award (until September 2023), Greene 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 Greene County Public Schools will seek and take into account public input during the review process. Plan revisions will address updated guidance on safely reopening schools if any are issued.

Revisions/updates to our plan have been posted online throughout the school year. These revisions/updates are posted at the end of this document.

Section 6: Making the Plan Available to the Public

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

- The 2022-23 plan is posted on our district website
- The plan may be orally translated for parents. Contact Kyle Pursel, kpursel@greenecountyschools.com, 434-939-9000 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 Kyle Pursel, kpursel@greenecountyschools.com, 434-939-9000

April 2022 GCPS Isolation Guidelines effective

Greene County Public Schools will:

- Continue tracking positive cases within our student and staff population.
 - Please continue to monitor your child for signs of COVID-19 and report positive cases to your child's building principal.
 - If your student tests positive for COVID-19, they are still required to follow isolation guidelines.

- Current GCPS isolation guidelines:
 - **Ending isolation for people who had COVID-19 and had symptoms**
 - If you had COVID-19 and had [symptoms](#), isolate for at least 5 days. To calculate your 5-day isolation period, day 0 is your first day of symptoms. Day 1 is the first full day after your symptoms developed. You can leave isolation after 5 full days.

 - You can end isolation after 5 full days if you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and your other symptoms have improved (Loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation).

 - You should continue to wear a [well-fitting mask](#) around others at home and in public for 5 additional days (day 6 through day 10) after the end of your 5-day isolation period. If you are unable to wear a mask when around others, you should continue to isolate for a full 10 days. Avoid people who have weakened immune systems or are [more likely to get very sick](#) from COVID-19, and nursing homes and other high-risk settings, until after at least 10 days.

 - If you continue to have fever or your other symptoms have not improved after 5 days of isolation, you should wait to end your isolation until you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and your other symptoms have improved. Continue to wear a [well-fitting mask](#) through day 10. Contact your healthcare provider if you have questions.

If an individual has access to a test and wants to test, the best approach is to use an [antigen test](#) towards the end of the 5-day isolation period. Collect the test sample only if you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and your other symptoms have improved (loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation). If your test result is positive, you should continue to isolate until day 10. If your test result is negative, you can end isolation, but continue to wear a [well-fitting mask](#) around others at home and in public until day 10.

- If you have specific questions regarding these changes, please contact your building principal.

February 14, 2022 - Contact Tracing and Quarantine Procedures effective

At the February 9 meeting of the Greene County School Board, action was taken to “end all contact tracing and quarantine practices for students and staff unless there is an outbreak as defined by the Virginia Department of Health effective the start of school on February 14th.”

Greene County Public Schools will:

- Continue tracking positive cases within our student and staff population.
 - Please continue to monitor your child for signs of COVID-19 and

- report positive cases to your child's building principal.
 - If your student tests positive for COVID-19, they are still required to follow isolation guidelines.
 - Current GCPS isolation guidelines say, "Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 should stay home and isolate for 10 full days."
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- Notify families, by email, if another student or a staff member in the same classroom, on the same bus, or on the same team tests positive for COVID-19.
 - These notifications do not require any action, unless an outbreak is specifically mentioned.

If you have specific questions regarding these changes, please contact your building principal.

January 24, 2022 - Updated GCPS Mask Policy

On Friday, January 21, 2022, the Greene County School voted to rescind its current policy and directive regarding the requirement that students, employees, and visitors wear an appropriate face covering at all times while inside any Greene County Public School buildings.

The Board adopted the following policy and directive effective 12:01 a.m. on Monday, January 24, 2022:

(1) The Board continues to encourage all students, employees, and visitors to wear an appropriate face covering at all times while inside any Greene County Public Schools building as a measure to help mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission and infection; however, consistent with the Governor's Executive Order Number Two, issued on January 15, 2022, no student shall be required to wear a face covering while inside a Greene County Public Schools building if that child's parent has elected not have the student subjected to a requirement that he or she wear a face covering while inside any Greene County Public Schools building; and

(2) no employee shall be required to wear a face covering while inside a Greene County Public Schools building if the employee elects not to do so; and (3) all students and employees shall be required to wear masks over the mouth and nose when traveling in any school-provided transportation, as required by federal law, and inside school buildings in compliance with any isolation and quarantine prevention strategy provided by the CDC.