



King and Queen County Public Schools

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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 King and Queen 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. Carol Carter, Division Superintendent, at ccarter@kqps.net or 804-785-5981.

As a school division, student safety is our priority as we designed mitigation strategies to allow our students to safely return to learning. An essential goal of our mitigation plan is to cultivate new norms, habits and mindsets among the student and staff population that will maximize safe behavior but also manifest patience, kindness, compassion, community-mindedness, and a sense of personal responsibility to others both within our walls and in the "outside world."

Section 2: Maintaining Health and Safety

King and Queen 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. A description of actions already taken and additional actions planned is below.

King and Queen County Public Schools implemented a mitigation plan for the start of the 2020-2021 school year that is posted at www.kqps.net. The detailed mitigation plan includes our procedures and policies on promoting behaviors that reduce the spread of COVID-19, maintaining health environments and operations, protecting All staff and students has

participated in training videos that reflect information from the CDC and VDH, to include (but not limited to) the following topics: Handwashing, Social Distancing, Face Coverings, Cloth Face Coverings Do's and Don'ts, Stop the Spread of Germs, What to Do if You're Sick, Know the Symptoms, and school level specific trainings that reflect building procedures.

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

Universal and correct wearing of masks. All individuals (student, staff, guests) are required to have face coverings while at school buildings. Signage is posted throughout school facilities indicating that face coverings are required.

Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding). Each school facility has been mapped to determine how classrooms and communal spaces must be prepared to ensure physical distancing recommendations. Class sizes will be reduced to promote physical distancing within classrooms in accordance with CDC, VDH and American Association of Pediatrics (AAP) recommended guidelines.

Physical distancing of 6 feet will be maintained in each building while students are transitioning from the classroom to another location (bathroom, bus, etc.). Signs will be placed at 6' intervals on the walls and on the floor to promote this behavior. When possible, staff will be present in the hallways to ensure compliance with this recommendation. Hallways: high school students will be asked to wear a mask and walk on the right side of the hallway when transitioning; elementary students will also be asked to wear a mask during transitions and will be supervised by staff at all times.

Restricting the mixing of student cohort groups: students at the elementary level will not change classrooms and/or mix with other classes/groups of students. The "morning" cohort will remain intact throughout the school day. Due to the nature of high school student schedules, students at the high school will switch classes between periods and follow the guidelines for hallway social distancing

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette. Students and staff use hand sanitizer upon arrival at school facilities. Hand sanitizer stations will be installed in each classroom and in high use areas. Students and staff will be required to use hand sanitizer each time they enter and exit the building and the classroom. Students and staff should wash hands regularly throughout the day. Washing for a minimum time of 20 seconds will be encouraged and expected. Hand washing guidance will be provided to all staff and students.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation. Our custodian, bus drivers, and car drivers have been equipped and trained with electrostatic sprayers for more rapid and effective disinfection of surfaces and spaces. All disinfecting products are EPA approved and align with Center of Disease Control and Prevention recommendations. Building cleaning and disinfection will take place each day; traditional

methods of cleaning as well as electrostatic sprayers will be used. All high-touch areas (door handles, railings, etc.) will be cleaned and sanitized multiple times throughout the school day. Buses will be disinfected before and after each route has been completed; either to school or from school to home.

KQPS will ensure ventilation systems operate properly and will increase the circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, if appropriate. KQPS Maintenance Staff will check HVAC systems and ensure filters are routinely changed according to manufacturer standards. KQPS has installed bipolar ionization ventilation equipment at all school facilities to improve the indoor air quality by managing air flow, detecting and identifying contaminants and managing air filtration.

Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments. School nurses will maintain their “normal” health services in schools as well as be on alert for symptoms that may indicate a COVID-19 infection. A separate room from the regular clinic will be designated at each school and will be used to separate individuals displaying COVID-19 symptoms. All isolation rooms will have ventilation that is separate from other rooms and have an exterior window for ventilation, if needed. If a child is showing signs of COVID-19 (classroom, hallway, bus, etc.), the school nurse will be called and will escort the child to the isolation room. The school nurse will evaluate the child and make the necessary notifications as required by VDH guidelines - local department of health, parents, etc. KQPS will work with the King and Queen Health Department to assist in contact tracing efforts. In accordance with state and local laws and regulations, the Superintendent (or designee) will notify local health officials, staff, and families immediately of any case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA). KQPS will inform those who have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to stay home, self-monitor for symptoms, and to follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop. KQPS will work closely with the Virginia Department of Health to determine if/when school closures are warranted. Should an outbreak occur, KQPS will transition to fully remote learning.

Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities. KQPS partnered with the King and Queen Health Department to offer vaccination clinics for all interested staff.

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies. If there are medical or developmental concerns that prohibit wearing a face covering, this should be documented by the student’s physician. Accommodations will be made for students.

Coordination with state and local health officials. KQPS has continued to work closely with the King and Queen Health department throughout the pandemic. KQPS has worked with our local health department on developing our health and safety mitigation plans, procedures for contract tracing, testing, and vaccination clinics.

Section 3: Continuity of Services

King and Queen 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

King and Queen County Schools have focused on the continuation of learning since the statewide shutdown in March 2020. Distance learning continued through the end of the 2019-2020 school year. Instructional staff ensured students had hard copy resources to continue learning through the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

KQPS reopening plan for the start of the 2020-2021 school year was a culmination of the work of the KQPS task force teams, survey data from students, parents and staff, and input from the King and Queen County School Board. Our first priority was to ensure that all students had access to a chromebook and internet to start the school year. KQPS is now a 1-to1 school division with chromebooks available to all students from grades K-12. High speed internet is still an issue throughout our county. KQPS provided hotspots for students to help keep students with internet connectivity.

KQPS offered parents the option to enroll their students in either a hybrid or fully virtual learning for the 2020-2021 school year. The hybrid schedule provided students with traditional classroom experiences two days a week combined with remote learning activities three days a week. This model supports smaller class sizes to enhance physical distancing. Parents that opted to have their students attend fully remote for grades 6-12 participated in instruction through Virtual Virginia. Students that attend fully remote for grades K-5 are instructed by teachers in either King and Queen Elementary or Lawson Marriott Elementary schools. The teachers provide concurrent instruction to hybrid and remote students. KQPS knows the significance of continuous learning for our high risk special population students. These students have the opportunity to attend four days a week to ensure they receive their necessary services.

Due to KQPS being a small rural school division, students were allowed to move from fully virtual to hybrid on a case by case basis throughout the school year while adhering to VDH and CDC guidelines. In February 2021, students in grade K-3 had the option to transition from a two day a week hybrid schedule to a four day a week hybrid schedule.

Our constant and continuing focus on our health mitigation plan has allowed for KQPS to transition more students to in person learning. We plan to open the 2021-2022 school year with 99% of our students in person five days a week. All students that will be remote next school year for grades K-12 will receive instruction through Virtual Virginia.

As the end of the 2020-2021 academic year is coming to an end, we have prepared for continuing learning throughout the summer. Our continuing learning summer program will include remediation, enrichment, and accelerated learning in the core subjects of reading and

math for all students. The summer program will also help support high school students in credit recovery.

KQPS has continued to monitor student performance throughout the school year. The data received allowed our instructional staff to adjust pacing and curriculum to align with student needs. We will continue to use this data throughout the summer and next school year to ensure students receive continued support and enrichment.

Social Emotional and Mental Health

King and Queen County Public Schools know that social emotional learning (SEL) will be critical to re-engaging students, supporting adults, rebuilding relationships, and creating a foundation for academic learning. This unprecedented shift to a new type of learning experience may have a lasting and profound impact on young people's academic, social, emotional, and life outcomes. The pandemic has underscored the need for social emotional learning as an essential part of a high-quality education; highlighting our relationships, resiliency, and collective problem-solving as fundamental to teaching and learning.

KQPS has continued to support our student social emotional and mental health needs throughout the past and current school year. Our school counselors and school psychologist have been available to all students whether they are hybrid or remote. KQPS had one school counselor at each of our three schools and a part-time school psychologist. We increased the hours of our school psychologist and hired another part-time psychologist for the 2020-2021 school year to be able to meet students' needs. In the 2021-2022 school year we will continue to provide two part-time psychologists to support the students.

Social emotional learning groups are at each school to provide support for students and SEL activities have been incorporated into teacher instruction on a daily basis. SEL groups and activities have been instrumental in building positive classroom behaviors and students' abilities to understand and manage their mental health along with cultivating positive relationships within the classroom and school.

Teachers at each school will meet regularly to discuss students' academic performance and social-emotional needs. They will work with the School Counselor, Executive Director of Student Support, Director of Community and School Support, and our KQPS families to develop plans of support for students of concern in one or both areas. School counselors will be available for parent consultation, remote counseling, or face-to-face counseling as needed throughout the year.

Student Nutrition

King and Queen County Public Schools school nutrition staff have continued to provide meals to all students from the beginning of the statewide closure through the current school year. In March 2020 and throughout the summer, the school nutrition staff provided meals through curbside meal distribution at the three schools and the fire department at the lower and upper parts of the county.

At the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, the school nutrition staff made adjustments to the meal delivery to accommodate both in-person and remote students. For in-person students, meals will be prepared in the school cafeteria and delivered to the classrooms. Elementary students will eat in their classrooms. High school students may be assigned a table in the cafeteria if a minimum of 6' social distance can be maintained at all times and the number of students in the cafeteria does not exceed the limits of social distancing expectations. If social distancing cannot be maintained, high school students will eat in classrooms. Meals will be prepackaged whether delivered to classrooms or obtained from the cafeteria. For remote students, five days of meals to include breakfast and lunch are delivered to the student homes on every Wednesday.

Starting with the 2020-2021 school year, KQPS is participating in the Community Eligibility Provision program which allows students to receive free meals regardless of their economic status. This program provides support for the well-being of our students and helps relieve some of the financial stress and food insecurity for families.

Section 4: Opportunity for Public Comment

In developing King and Queen County Public Schools reopening and continuing learning plan, KQPS sought public input and took such input into account as described below.

The division has sought input from students, families, staff, and the community with surveys throughout the school year about adequate internet connectivity, health and mitigation, and return to learning options. The King and Queen School board has been involved in reviewing and implementing our reopening and mitigation plans. The Superintendent has kept the School Board informed of all cases and quarantines that have affected our students and staff throughout the year. Public comment has been available at all of our school board meetings for parents and community members to voice their comments pertaining to reopening and mitigation plans.

King and Queen Public Schools will continue to seek input and feedback from all stakeholders during the development of continuing learning and the use of the American Rescue Plan funds.

Section 5: Periodic Review and Revision of Plan

During the period of the ARP ESSER award (until September 2023), King and Queen 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 King and Queen 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

King and Queen County Public Schools has taken the following steps to make this plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at www.kqps.net
- The plan is available in Spanish and Arabic
- The plan may be orally translated for parents. Contact Stephanie Lambrecht, Director of Special Education and Student Services at slambrecht@kqps.net or 804-785-5981 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 Stephanie Lambrecht, Director of Special Education and Student Services at slambrecht@kqps.net or 804-785-5981.