



# HAMILTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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#EachWillThrive

The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief 3.0 (ESSER 3.0) Fund under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, enacted on March 11, 2021. ARP ESSER Funding provides a total of nearly \$122 billion to states and local educational agencies (LEAs) to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the nation's students. In addition to ARP ESSER Funding, ARP includes \$3 billion for special education, \$850 million for the Outlying Areas, \$2.75 billion to support non-public schools, and additional funding for homeless children and youth, Tribal educational agencies, Native Hawaiians, and Alaska Natives.

LEAs must develop and make publicly available a **Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan** that meets the following requirements within 30 days of receiving ARP ESSER allocation. If an LEA developed a plan before ARP was enacted that does not address the requirements, the LEA must revise its plan no later than six months after it last reviewed its plan. All plans must be developed with meaningful public consultation with stakeholder groups (i.e., families, students, teachers, principals, school and district administrators, school leaders, other educators, school staff, advocacy organizations representing student groups). The consultation process must include an opportunity for input and meaning consideration of that input. ARP ESSER plans need to be published in an understandable and uniform format; to the extent practicable, written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable, orally translated; and upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent.

ESSER III (ARP) requires Hamilton Community Schools to update its **Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan** every six months through the life of the grant.

# Part One: Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan

1. Describe the extent to which the LEA has adopted policies and a description of such policies on each of the following health and safety strategies.

<b>Universal &amp; correct wearing of masks</b>	<p>HCS will not require universal indoor masking by students, staff, teachers, &amp; visitors to K-12 schools regardless of vaccination status. HCS will follow current ACHD guidance released on 8/26/2022 which allows staff and students to choose to wear a mask at any time. Anyone who chooses to wear a mask will be supported in their decision to do so.</p> <p>It is still <u>recommended, but not required</u> that staff and students wear a mask when they have tested positive and are returning to school during the remaining 5 days of isolation, or if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms but tested negative.</p> <p>Masks are no longer required on buses.</p>
<b>Physical distancing (e.g, including use of cohorts)</b>  <b>Handwashing &amp; respiratory etiquette</b>	<p>Physical distancing is not required at HCS, and as of 8/11/2022, the CDC has removed all recommendations regarding cohorting students in schools.</p> <p>HCS will continue to encourage students to appropriately and frequently wash their hands with soap and hot water, including prior to eating breakfast or lunch.</p>
<b>Cleaning &amp; maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation</b>	<p>All HCS facilities will continue to be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with DPH and CDC guidelines. Sanitizer is available throughout our buildings. Custodians clean each building every night. Throughout the day, teachers may sanitize their classroom during class transitions, if desired.</p>

<p><b>Contact tracing in combination with isolation &amp; quarantine</b></p>	<p>Isolation Guidance: Students, teachers &amp; staff who test positive for COVID-19 and/or display COVID-19 symptoms should isolate regardless of vaccination status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay home and isolate for 5 days; and</li> <li>• If asymptomatic, monitor for symptoms for days 0 – 10 and isolate for days 0-5 (day “0” is day symptoms begin or day test was taken for those without symptoms); and</li> <li>• If symptoms have improved or no symptoms developed, return to school, for days 6 -10.</li> </ul> <p>Exposure Guidance: ACHD is following the current COVID-19 exposure guidance recommendations; this guidance may change if COVID-19 cases and/or hospitalizations rise.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During days 1-10 following exposure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch for symptoms, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other COVID-19 symptoms.</li> <li>• For the full 10 days after last exposure, avoid people who are immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease, and nursing homes and other high-risk settings.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Testing is not required to determine the end of isolation or mask use.</p> <p>HCS will not recommend quarantine for people who are only exposed to COVID-19. HCS will continue to partner with the local health department for contact tracing, when warranted.</p>
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<p><b>Diagnostic and screening testing</b></p>	<p>HCS will continue to encourage students and staff to stay home if sick or having COVID-19 symptoms. HCS will not require a negative test for students to return to school.</p>
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**2. Describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services including but not limited to services to address the students' academic needs, and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.**

Hamilton Community Schools resumed full in-person learning with continuity of all services beginning in August 2022 for all students in Grades Young 5's-12. The district does provide an additional option for students in Grades K-12 to opt in for virtual learning through our Hamilton Virtual School.

**Ensuring Students' Academic Needs:**

As in previous years, Hamilton Community Schools will continue its use of the i-Ready assessments in reading and mathematics for '23-'24 for students in grades K-8. The assessment will be administered three times a year: the first during the first six weeks of the school year, the second during the month of January, and the third during the spring prior to the last day of school in June. HCS will also continue to use extensive assessments (Dibels and Delta Math) in grades K-6 to determine interventions and supports to better meet the needs of its learners in both reading and mathematics. Progress reports will be available on the HCS website in February and June indicating i-Ready results.

Using the district's continuous improvement process, HCS will continue to engage stakeholders in the district's assessment system, including publicly sharing aggregate and student subgroup performance reports on i-Ready results in February and June.

## Part Two: Consultation with Stakeholders

**3. Describe how the LEA will, in planning for the use of ARP ESSER funds, engage in meaningful consultation with stakeholders. Provide an overview of how the public stakeholder input was considered in the development of the LEA's Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan.**

From the inception of the Extended COVID Learning Plan developed for the 2020-2021 school year, staff, parents and community members have been given opportunities to voice their opinions, provide perspectives, and offer feedback regarding plans for pandemic learning. HCS continues to utilize Board of Education meetings as a conduit to the general public, but also provided other opportunities for stakeholders to share input since 2021.

To meet the requirements of Public Act 149, Section 98a, Hamilton Community Schools reconfirmed how instruction was delivered during the 2020-2021 school year on a monthly basis that included public input.

Before an LEA Plan of Use was developed for the expenditures of ESSER III funds, the following was completed:

- ▷ December 3, 2021: Hamilton Community Schools (HCS) Applied for ESSER III Grant
- ▷ December 8, 2021: HCS Released ESSER III Survey to all stakeholders
- ▷ December 17, 2021 - January 4, 2022 Survey Results Compiled and Presentation Built
- ▷ January 10, 2022 HCS presented findings and "Use of Funds" ideas to community with Public Comment
- ▷ By March 1, 2022 HCS will amended original application to take into account stakeholder consultation

Three hundred and forty five responses were received asking the community to prioritize funding around student learning and COVID-19 recovery.

### **4. Periodic Review Process and Understandable & Uniform Format**

Districts are required to periodically review and, as appropriate, revise their **Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan** at least every six months through September 30, 2024. Each review must include seeking public input on the plan and revising the plan after taking into account public input.

\*\*Reviewed and Approved with public input, February 19, 2024