

**Pendleton County School's
ARP ESSER Plan
July 2021**

Pendleton County Schools
Narrative ARP ESSER Plan

The extent to which and how funds will be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies consistent with the CDC and Prevention guidance on reopening schools.
<p>Pendleton County Schools (PCS) will use ARP ESSER funds to implement prevention and mitigation strategies consistent with the CDC and Prevention guidance on reopening schools. A large portion of these funds will be used on extensive HVAC improvements designed to improve the indoor air quality of our two elementary schools. If funds allow, improvements to the HVAC system at both the middle and high school buildings will be made. Funds will also be made to purchase cleaning materials and supplies necessary for the district to follow all state and federal guidelines pertaining to the safe return and continuation of in-person learning.</p>
How the local education agency (LEA) will use funds to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions.
<p>Pendleton County Schools has created plans to address the learning loss of students in each school utilizing current resources and/or additional sources of funding. PCS will use a portion of the ARP ESSER funds to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions. Strategies the district will utilize include providing after-school tutoring and summer school programming to students not meeting benchmark. During the after-school tutoring and summer learning sessions, students not meeting benchmark will be engaged with evidence-based programs facilitated by a highly-qualified staff member. The elementary schools will utilize multiple evidence-based programs to address reading deficits such as Voyager Reading (Frechtling 2006) and Fast ForWord (Scientific Learning Corp 2004). Elementary math deficiencies will be addressed through programs such as VMath (Pool 2013). The middle and high school will use programs such as Reading Plus (Reading Plus 2008) and ALEKS (Huang 2013). The district will also provide access to high-quality training for staff on evidence-based strategies and/or programs the district implements.</p>
How the LEA will spend the remainder of its funds.
<p>The district will prioritize remaining funds based on needs in the district. These remaining funds will be used to improve indoor air quality in our schools through HVAC improvements, purchase supplies needed for cleaning and sanitizing, and to provide other professional services such as contracted custodial services necessary for proper cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting our schools.</p>
How the LEA will ensure that interventions address the academic impact of lost instructional time and respond to the academic, social, emotional and mental health needs of all students.
<p>In addition to monitoring STAR (K-8) and CERT (9-12) data to ensure the academic needs of students is being met, Pendleton County school administrators will analyze the progress of students in various evidence-based intervention programs using the monitoring tools associated with the programs. School administrators will meet with teachers regularly to discuss student progress and determine if any changes to students' interventions are necessary. District administrators will meet with school administrators regularly to discuss student progress and any resources or training that may be needed.</p> <p>The district-wide counselor will meet with the school counselor and school administrator(s) regularly to discuss the social, emotional, and mental health needs of students. PCS has received grant funding designed to address mental health and social-emotional learning not only in the school setting but also with families, staff, and the community as a whole.</p>
Consultation
<p>PCS released a survey inviting all parents/guardians, students, community members, school leaders, district administrators, teachers and other school personnel to provide input on the district's ARP</p>

ESSER plan. The survey was posted on the district’s website for ten days. A meeting was held with the Pendleton County Education Association (PCEA) president to discuss ideas and plans for the ARP ESSER funds. Results from the survey and notes from the meeting with the PCEA president were shared with the district planning team and were considered when developing the district’s ARP ESSER plan. District administrators representing disadvantaged populations that were consulted include the Director of Special Education and Preschool and the EL Coordinator. The Title I Coordinator and the district Homeless Coordinator were also consulted and served as members of the ARP ESSER district planning team. We do not have a civil rights organization in our community.

References

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Pool, J.L., Carter, G.M., Johnson, E.S., &Carter, D.R. (2013). Intervention in School and Clinic, 48(4), 210-217.

Reading Plus. (2008). Huntington Station, NY: Taylor Associates/Communications, Inc.

Scientific Learning Corporation (2004). MAPS for Learning: Product Reports, 3(1), 1-13.

Pendleton County Schools

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

Overview

Pendleton County Schools will continue work collaboratively with Three Rivers Local Health Department, Kentucky Department of Public Health, and Kentucky Department of Education to ensure that appropriate mitigation and prevention strategies are in place for the return of in-person instruction during the 2021-2022 school year.

In July, 2020 Kentucky Department of Education and Kentucky Department of Public Health released a Healthy at Schools document which provided requirements, recommendations, and considerations for districts as they prepared for the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. This document was revised throughout the school year as more information became available, as vaccines were rolled out, and as the incidence rate of cases changed across the state.

In June, 2021 with vaccines readily available and a significant improvement in the incidence rate across the state, the statewide mask mandate was lifted, and all restrictions in place through the Healthy at Schools document were lifted.

In July, 2021 the Center for Disease Control (CDC) released new guidance on in-person instruction and mitigation and prevention strategies that schools and districts should take. This guidance was taken by the Kentucky Department of Public Health and guidance has been released for local districts. At this time, this guidance is a recommendation for districts, and not a requirement.

Health and Safety of Students and Staff

Pendleton County Schools will continue to work collaboratively with state and local health and education officials to make informed decisions regarding the health and safety of our students, staff, families, and community. Incidence rates, recommendations from health professionals, and ongoing data analysis will determine the steps taken.

Steps taken will range from prevention and mitigation strategies discussed below, alternative (hybrid/virtual) instruction models, and other strategies as needed upon the guidance of local, regional, and state education and health officials.

The health and safety of our students, staff, families, and community remain a top priority for Pendleton County Schools, and will continue to drive educational and instructional decision making as we gain a broader understanding of COVID-19 and its impact on the schools, district, and community.

Mitigation Strategies (CDC Safety Recommendations)

Universal Masking- The statewide mask mandate in Kentucky and in schools was lifted in June, 2021. At this time, Pendleton County Schools will recommend, but not require that students, staff, and visitors who have not been fully vaccinated wear a mask while in school and district facilities. Students and staff on school buses must wear a mask at all times when on the bus in accordance with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention public health order.

Physical Distancing- Pendleton County Schools will work to ensure that adequate physical distancing is in place for students and staff as we return to in-person instruction. Every effort will be made to ensure a minimum of 3 feet social distancing occurs in classrooms, common areas, cafeterias, and other school facilities.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette- Handwashing and appropriate etiquette signage will be visible throughout district facilities. Reminders to students, staff, and visitors will be made regularly. Hand sanitizer will be made readily available, particularly in common and high traffic areas.

Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities- Regular cleaning, sanitation, and disinfection of buildings will occur. Appropriate sanitizing supplies will be available for use on hard and high traffic areas for use regularly during the school day and during transition periods.

Improving Ventilation- A portion of ESSER III will be earmarked to be used to improve the indoor air quality in buildings across the district. Additionally, ventilation will be monitored and adjustments to re-circulation of outdoor air will be made as situations warrant.

Contact Tracing, Isolation, and Quarantine- Pendleton County Schools will work closely with local and state health officials to ensure that appropriate reporting and steps are taken as needed for individuals needing to isolate or quarantine as a result of contact tracing of individuals testing positive for COVID-19.

Diagnostic Screening- Pendleton County Schools will encourage students, staff members, and other community members who are exhibiting symptoms to speak with their healthcare provider about their symptoms if they exhibit any COVID-19 symptoms. Appropriate signage will be prevalent in all buildings reminding students, staff, and visitors that if they exhibit any symptoms or believe they have been exposed to anyone with COVID-19 that they speak with their healthcare provider before returning to the building.

Vaccination Efforts- Pendleton County Schools will work closely with local health officials to provide collaborative opportunities for COVID-19 vaccines. This will include allowing the local health department to provide vaccines to those eligible at selected back to school events. Currently, Three Rivers Health Department intends to provide vaccines to adults and students 12 years of age and older at Pendleton County High School schedule pick-up (8/4/2021 9:00-12:30 and 2:00-7:00) and at Sharp Middle School Back to School Bash (8/5/2021 4:30-6:30).

Accommodations for Children with Disabilities- The district will work closely with Kentucky Department of Education to ensure that all students with disabilities are receiving appropriate services in accordance with the Individual Education Plans as identified under the provisions of IDEA.

Continuity of Services

Academic Needs- Pendleton County Schools plans to begin the year with full time in-person learning available for any student who desires. Additionally, virtual education options will be available to students in grades 6-12 who meet outlined criteria. Should incidence rates and case numbers rise to a level where other instructional methods are needed to continue instruction, the district has the resources and tools available to make a shift very quickly and ensure that the loss of instructional time is minimized for all students.

Social, Emotional, Mental Health Needs- Pendleton County Schools has counseling staff in each building as well as at the district level to address these needs. Additionally, the district has grant funding and staffing to address mental health and social emotional learning not only in the schools, but also with families, staff, and the community as a whole. Should a shift to hybrid or virtual education occur as a result of COVID-19, this same staff will be available through other means of communication to ensure that student, staff, and community needs are met.

District Support Services- Pendleton County Schools will ensure that student support services such as health, food services, and transportation are available to the greatest extent possible should a shift to hybrid or virtual instruction be needed at any point. These services will be available to all eligible students pursuant to board policy and other guidance.

Review/Updates

Pendleton County Schools district administration and other stakeholders will regularly review the information presented in this plan. Reviews will occur at a minimum of every six months while incidence rates and case numbers remain low in the community. Should rates begin rising and the state created color coded system indicates that Pendleton County is in the "red" category, reviews will occur at a minimum of weekly to ensure that any updates or changes to the procedures and plans are communicated.

Consultation

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