



## Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services Plan

August 15, 2022

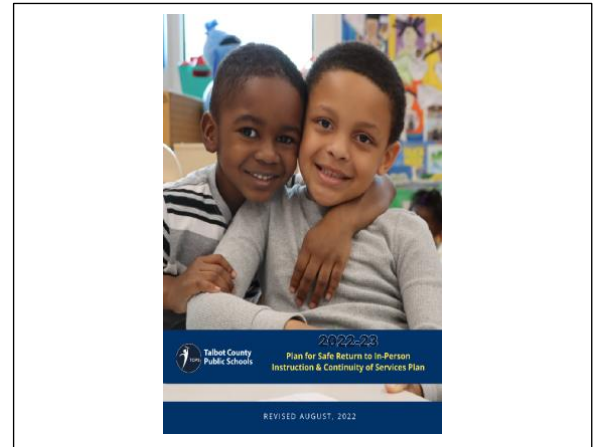
*Background:* The federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund requires the review of Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services (Reopening) Plans every six months for the duration of the grant period. TCPS is committed to creating a plan informed by broad stakeholder feedback. In addition to being included in all district level stakeholder meetings, feedback on safe protocols for returning to school and instructional programming to accelerate student learning post Covid closures was gained through an online feedback form available on the district website. The August 15, 2022 plan will be updated again in February 2023.

*Highlights of School Operations in the August 2022 Plan:*

- All TCPS schools will be open for in-person instruction with full operations in place including athletics, field trips, and extracurricular activities
- Masks are optional
- 6-foot social distancing is no longer required
- Contact tracing is no longer required

TCPS will continue to work collaboratively with the Talbot County Health Department. To foster the safest learning environment for all students and staff, TCPS will be following Maryland Department of Health and MSDE Guidance for COVID-19 Symptoms, Isolation, and Quarantine outlined below:

Staff or Student/Child with	Guidance for Management
COVID-19 symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff or student/child should not attend or work in a school or child care setting</li> <li>• COVID-19 testing is recommended</li> <li>• If test is negative, may return when symptoms have improved, no fever for 24 hours without medication, and applicable criteria in the <a href="#">Communicable Diseases Summary</a> have been met</li> </ul>
Positive test for COVID-19, regardless of symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff or student/child must stay home for 5 days from the start of symptoms or from the date of the positive test if no symptoms</li> <li>• After day 5, may return if symptoms have improved and no fever for at least 24 hours without medication</li> <li>• Upon return, must wear a mask for 5 additional days (except while eating, drinking, sleeping or outside)</li> <li>• If unable to wear a mask, may return if they have a negative test at day 5 or later; otherwise, they should remain at home for days 6 -10</li> </ul>
Close contact with someone with known or suspected COVID-19 but no symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff or student/child can continue to work in or attend school and child care regardless of vaccination status</li> <li>• Those who can mask should do so for 10 days from the last day of exposure</li> <li>• A test at 3-5 days after exposure is recommended, especially for those who cannot mask (ex. children under 2 years of age).</li> </ul>



*Instructional Program:* Talbot County Public Schools' (TCPS) instructional program is grounded in prioritizing the brilliance of each student, promoting equity, and operating from an asset-based perspective. School closures and interruptions due to COVID-19 have challenged our efforts to meet that imperative but have not deterred our commitment to stand strong in centering student needs. During the 2022-2023 school year, TCPS will continue to focus on accelerating student learning.

The following strategies /practices are outlined in the Re-Opening Plan to address the interrupted teaching and learning caused by Covid-19 school closures:

- Comprehensive assessment plan outlining diagnostic screeners to assess student mastery of grade-level standards. This data will be used to plan differentiated instruction opportunities to support student learning
- Summary of core curriculum materials implemented by grade level. A focus will be on fidelity of implementation
- Renewed attention to intentional planning for small group instruction
- Targeted Intervention for reading and math, especially at the early grades with the addition of tutors and instructional assistants
- Increased summer learning opportunities including a middle school summer career enrichment program added in 2022
- Social emotional well-being for students and staff

The Re-opening Plan also includes information on:

- Grading
- Attendance
- Blended Virtual Instruction
- Equity and attention to needs of students in special populations

The most significant change to the Instruction Program component of the Re-opening Plan is the updating of student data in Appendix B. The data reflects end of 2021-2022 assessments. TCPS utilizes this data to monitor student progress in meeting grade level standards.