



# ← RETURN *to* LEARN ← 2021

SPARTANBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT THREE

## SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION, CONTINUITY OF SERVICES & ESSER III FUNDING PLAN

SPARTANBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT THREE

[Whodge@spartanburg3.org](mailto:Whodge@spartanburg3.org)

[spartanburg3.org](http://spartanburg3.org)

864-279-6000

3535 Clifton Glendale Rd.

Spartanburg, SC 29307

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## PAGE 3

Introduction

## PAGE 4

Maintaining Health and Safety

Overview

Description of maintaining health and safety

## PAGE 5

Policies or Practices Regarding CDC Recommendations

Universal and correct wearing of masks

Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

## PAGE 6

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine

Diagnostic and screening testing

## PAGE 7

Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and practices

Coordination with state and local health officials

## PAGE 8

Continuity of Services

Overview

District response on continuity of services

## PAGE 9

Periodic Review

Overview

District response on ensuring periodic updates to its plan

Public Input

Overview

District response on public input in development of its plan

# INTRODUCTION

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plans (ARP) Act was signed into law. In it, the U.S. Department of Education is providing an additional \$121.9 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III Fund). This legislation will award grants to state educational agencies (SEAs) for providing local educational agencies (LEAs) with emergency relief funds to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the nation.

South Carolina will receive \$2,112,051,487 in ESSER III funds from the Act, with 90 percent being awarded to school districts with amounts determined in proportion to the amount of Title I, Part A funds they received in summer 2020 from funds under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The remaining funds will be used for state-level activities to address issues caused by COVID-19.

This plan describes how the LEA or district will provide the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services for all schools, including those that have already returned to in-person instruction. This report complies with all reporting requirements of the ARP Act (Public Law 117-2), the ESSER III grant terms, conditions, and assurances (CFDA Number 84.425U), and the interim final rule established by the U.S. Department of Education, 86 FR 21195.

# MAINTAINING HEALTH AND SAFETY

District Three continues to take COVID-19 very seriously. Since the onset of COVID-19, we have taken steps and precautions to keep our school environments as safe as possible.

We continue to take precautionary steps to keep our schools as safe and healthy as possible. Those include, but are not limited to: extensive cleaning, plexiglass dividers, spaced classrooms, and limited extracurricular events. Our staff also works diligently to instruct proper hand washing and respiratory etiquette within the school day for all students.

Hand washing stations with soap and/or hand sanitizer are available in classrooms. Students are reminded to wash their hands frequently with soap and water, particularly after entering the building or classroom. If soap and water are not available, students should use hand sanitizers. High-touch surfaces (doorknobs, handrails, light switches, etc.) will be cleaned with disinfectants throughout the school day. All District Three staff follow cleaning and disinfecting protocols according to SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidelines.

Whenever symptoms of COVID-19 appear at school, teachers will send students to the health room to be examined by the school nurse. If the school nurse believes the symptoms indicate the probability of COVID-19, parents will be notified immediately and asked to pick up the student from school. Until the arrival of the parent, the student will be isolated from other students and required to wear a mask while he/she is waiting to be picked up. Parents should update health records, emergency phone numbers and provide the school nurse with the latest health information on students.

School nurses and a district administrator will communicate directly with the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to determine the next steps in each situation when COVID-19 symptoms are present in students or teachers. The DHEC exclusion and notification guidance will be followed, along with the DHEC re-entry guidance when a child is ready to re-enter school after being excluded for a case or symptoms of COVID-19. School nurses will comply with HIPAA regulations in the handling of COVID-19 cases.

Our buildings filters were increased from MERV 8-10 to MERV 10-14. We also increased the introduction of outside air. This summer, our buildings will be installed with bipolar ionization units to provide the highest air quality to our students, parents, and faculties.

Our district feels confident with these guidelines and policies in place to ensure our students and faculties have access to a safe learning environment.

## UPDATED RECOMMENDATIONS

Further district recommendations for the 2021-22 school year include removal of plexiglass dividers, optional mask requirements for all students and staff with the option to wear the mask if a family prefers, reinstate field trips for all levels, and visitors will remain in the front office lobby unless there is a school performance/event or parent/teacher conference. Our district feels confident with these guidelines and policies in place, we can ensure our students and faculties have access to a safe learning environment.

# POLICIES OR PRACTICES REGARDING CDC RECOMMENDATIONS

## UNIVERSAL AND CORRECT WEARING OF MASKS

---

On May 11, 2021, Governor Henry McMaster issued Executive Order 2021-23, which allows parents to decide if their child(ren) should wear a face mask at school. Parents may complete a mask waiver to opt their child out of mask requirements. This form can be found on our district website. Families who would like for their child(ren) to wear a mask in the school setting will be allowed to do so. Students and parents who would like for their child to continue wearing a mask will be allowed to do so.

## MODIFYING FACILITIES TO ALLOW FOR PHYSICAL DISTANCING

---

Social Distancing in the classroom will be accomplished by limiting instructional groups to family pods within a given classroom or designated learning area. Signage will be used to control traffic, to point out and encourage social distancing, to encourage respiratory etiquette, to encourage hand washing and sanitizing, and to inform visitors of our COVID-19 rules.

## HANDWASHING AND RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE

---

All students and staff will be encouraged to wash/clean their hands regularly. Handwashing stations with soap and/or hand sanitizer should be made available in classrooms. Students will be reminded to wash their hands frequently with soap and water, particularly after entering the building or classroom. If soap and water are not available, students should use hand sanitizers. High-touch surfaces(doorknobs, handrails, light switches, etc.) will be cleaned with disinfectants throughout the school day. All District Three staff will follow cleaning and disinfecting protocols according to SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidelines.

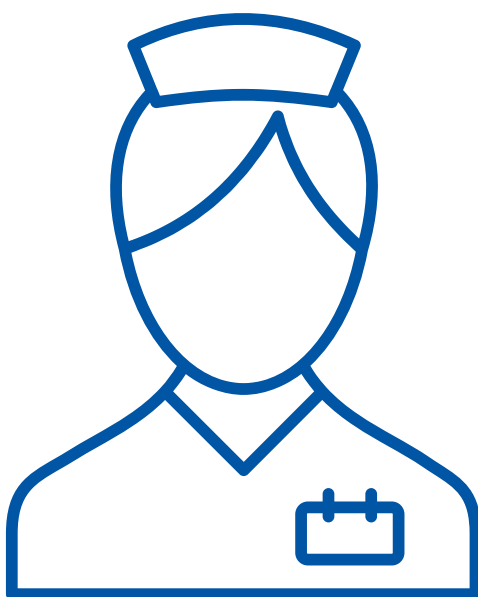


# POLICIES OR PRACTICES REGARDING CDC RECOMMENDATIONS

## CLEANING AND MAINTAINING HEALTHY FACILITIES, INCLUDING IMPROVING VENTILATION

---

To further improve the quality of environment, our district is upgrading the HVAC filtration where applicable to higher MERV filters. This summer, all buildings will have biopolar ionization units installed to provide the highest air quality for our students, parents, and faculties.



## CONTACT TRACING IN COMBINATION WITH ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE

---

Whenever symptoms of COVID-19 appear at school, teachers will send students to the health room to be examined by the school nurse. If the school nurse believes the symptoms indicate the probability of COVID-19, parents will be notified immediately and asked to pick up the student from school. Until the arrival of the parent, the student will be isolated from other students and required to wear a mask while he/she is waiting to be picked up. Parents should update health records, emergency phone numbers and provide the school nurse with the latest health information on students.

School nurses and a district administrator will communicate directly with the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to determine the next steps in each situation. The DHEC exclusion and notification guidance will be followed. The DHEC re-entry guidance will be followed when a child is ready to re-enter school after being excluded for a case or symptoms of COVID-19.

School nurses will comply with HIPAA regulations in the handling of COVID-19 cases.

## DIAGNOSTIC AND SCREENING TESTING

---

Our district does not conduct any form of testing at our schools.



# **POLICIES OR PRACTICES REGARDING CDC RECOMMENDATIONS**



## **EFFORTS TO PROVIDE VACCINATIONS TO EDUCATORS, OTHER STAFF, AND STUDENTS**

---

In the spring of 2021, the Spartanburg County School Districts teamed up with Spartanburg Regional Medical Center to provide vaccinations for school employees. Teachers were allowed time to leave their positions to get the vaccine.

## **APPROPRIATE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES WITH RESPECT TO HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICIES AND PRACTICES**

---

Special education accommodations are followed as detailed in a student's Individualized Educational Plan. If needed, an IEP team will meet to determine if additional accommodations should be provided for a student due to health concerns.

## **COORDINATION WITH STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS**

---

Spartanburg County School District Three continues to work closely with DHEC and CDC officials to ensure we are following the most up-to-date health guidelines in our schools.

# CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

## OVERVIEW

Districts must describe how the LEA will 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, which may include student health and food services.

## DISTRICT RESPONSE

Spartanburg County School District Three has always had a strong commitment of providing quality education for all our students. Regardless of the instructional model used, teachers continue to use the rigor of the state standards as the foundation of their instruction. Our educators review formative and summative assessments to evaluate where student strengths and needs occur. Professional development will be provided to our educators to ensure small group instruction is effective and personalized. Small group instruction is differentiated based on math and ELA MAP scores and the MAP Learning Continuum.

In an effort to address academic needs, Spartanburg County School District Three will put key personnel in place at all levels to address specific learning needs in reading, writing, and math. The District understands the need for accelerated mastery learning and has district instructional guides to help teachers prepare students for the accelerated learning that must take place in the 21-22 school year. Students will also engage in goal-setting to set, track, and achieve academic goals.

All students must have opportunities to achieve academic success. The District will continue to meet the needs of all students regardless of their personal situation. Subgroup performance is monitored at the school and district level. Students who are falling behind academically are contacted frequently to ensure they have the support they need to move forward. Attendance and behavior will also be tracked at all levels in order to provide necessary interventions and proactive measures.

District and school staff members are committed to supporting students' social-emotional wellness and offering resources to ensure a smooth transition for students in the fall. Support may include social-emotional learning, building relationships, community-building activities, and increased access to mental health/wellness services. We will continue to do our utmost to meet the social-emotional needs of all students and faculty within the District Three family (ie: mental health, med screens, additional personnel...etc). Our District Social Worker consistently monitors all students including those with no internet services. In addition, there is an abundance of activities and strategies available for parents, students, and teachers on our district website.

In an effort to provide nutrition for our families in the summer, Spartanburg County School District Three and Chartwells have developed a 7-day meal kit. It is free for all students 18 years old and younger.



# PERIODIC REVIEW

## OVERVIEW

Districts are required to 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, 2023, including seeking public input and taking such input into account in determining whether to revise the plan and, if revisions are determined necessary, on the revisions it makes to its plan. If a district developed a plan prior to enactment of the ARP Act that was made publicly available and was developed with public comment, but does not address each of the required aspects of safety established in the ARP Act, the district must, as part of the required periodic review, revise its plan consistent with the ARP Act requirements no later than six months after it last reviewed its plan.

## DISTRICT RESPONSE

Spartanburg County School District Three will review our plan quarterly. Any adjustments/changes to the plan can be made at that time.

# PUBLIC INPUT

## OVERVIEW

The ARP Act requires that school districts make their Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan available to the public online and that the plans be in an understandable and uniform format; to the extent practicable, are 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. Before making its plan publicly available, school districts must seek public comment on the plan and develop the plan after taking into account public comment.

## DISTRICT RESPONSE

Our Return to Learn Task Force was utilized to provide a wide range of stakeholder input. The Task Force is comprised of parents, teachers, administrators, School Board members, health officials, district administration, instructional coaches, technology specialists, guidance counselors, and community members. Task Force members reviewed the proposed plan and provided feedback to the district. Feedback collected and adjustments were made as needed. Finally, the plan was presented to Spartanburg County School District Three's School Board Chair and Trustees for their approval.

**PLEASE NOTE:** In the event that a school or class encounters a COVID-19 outbreak, we will follow the guidance of the CDC and local health officials for increased health measures.

