



## Halifax County Schools

9525 Highway 301 South Halifax, NC 27839 | Phone: 252-583-5111

*"Charting a New Course" to Student Achievement*

### Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan 2021-2022

#### Introduction:

Halifax County Schools (HCS) is a recipient of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Funding. The ESSER III funds are provided to State educational agencies and school districts to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the Nation's students (Reference: United States Department of Education). The district welcomes the ESSER III funding support and operates within the funding's budgeted guidelines to ensure alignment of expenditures.

HCS continues to take pride in its commitment to the safety and well-being of its school community throughout the various phases of COVID-19. The Superintendent's varied messaging (within each phase) are valued lifelines throughout the school community. Each phase has piloted the planning and preparation for the safe return of in-person learning. Parents, guardians, students and the public are informed of the district's many COVID safety processes, protocols, procedures, and decisions made in the planning of safe in-person, remote, and virtual learning experiences. The district appreciates and seeks all stakeholders' collaborative feedback to operationalize safe, supportive, and positive learning environments that address the school community's educational needs in partnership with educators, staff, parents, students, and business communities.

The **Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan 2021-2022** describes how Halifax County Schools will continue to maintain the health and safety of students, educators, staff, and school families during the pursuit of in-person, remote, and alternative learning while the COVID-19 pandemic is still at large. You are invited to review and share your comments with the Halifax County Schools District. Public comments can be directed to Dr. Tyrana Battle, Assistant Superintendent of Halifax County Schools at the following email address: [battlet@halifax.k12.nc.us](mailto:battlet@halifax.k12.nc.us). You will receive a noted receipt of your email. Internet limited stakeholders are encouraged to write or call using the district's contact information listed above.

## Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan 2021-2022

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this plan is to ensure the continued safety and well-being of the Halifax County Schools' staff and students' return to school in alignment with the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Funding.

### **Stakeholders:**

Halifax County Schools' students, educators, staff, and school community

The funding provides financial assistance with the safe reopening and sustaining of school operation as well as addresses the impacts of COVID-19 on the nation's students by addressing students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs.

### **I. Return to In-Person Instruction**

#### **A. Adopted practices on each of the following safety recommendations established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit:**

1. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing
2. Modifying bussing to allow for physical distancing
3. Universal and correct wearing of masks
4. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
5. Serving of meals; socialization at play and recess
6. Athletics, fieldtrips, graduations
7. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation
8. Effective isolation and quarantine of students testing positive at school
9. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine (collaboration with the State and local health departments)
10. COVID screening testing
11. Alternative learning and work accommodations for high-risk students and staff with disabilities with respect to COVID-19 and health and safety policies
12. Coordination with state and local health officials efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities
13. Communication of adapted practices to all stakeholders

#### **B. Established monitoring and follow-up practices as keepers of CDC recommendations and StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit adopted practices:**

1. Parent surveys, bi-weekly taskforce meetings with all key stakeholders
2. Helpdesk, Facebook/social media messaging, open collaboration with partnerships
3. Alignment of district & schools' communications: websites, teachers' webpages, phone calls, home connect letters, meeting agendas, and weekly announcements



## II. Remote Instruction

### A. Established 5 remote instruction days within the HCS' 2021-2022 School Calendar (located on the district's webpage) with an emphasis on:

1. Deep cleaning schools, and
2. Building instructional staff's professional capacity for:
  - Understanding and teaching social-emotional learning components
  - Acquiring relevant and quality professional development in the delivery of NC SCOS unpacked standards, MTSS tiered lessons, and gradual release (I Do, We Do, You Do) instruction within a blended learning environment.
  - Access to quality digital and print core curriculum (ELA, math, science, & social studies) to assist and cultivate high quality blended learning engagement with instructional technology team.
  - Engaged research-based blended learning toolkits to increase the development of personalized accelerated learning paths.
  - Value-added supports to sustain teacher retention and recruitment within a blended learning environment.
  - Improving a district-wide robust blended work environment plan that is conducive to teacher and staff recognitions, vertical collaboration, critical thinking, data-driven resolutions, development of a growth mindset, ongoing innovations, and community entrepreneurial partnerships.
  - Enhanced means of communication and development of a Parent/Guardian K-12 Academic Support webpage to assist parents with supporting students' blended learning engagement.
  - Social-emotional connectivity and online best practices to keep the school community whole in the midst of COVID-19 threats and recovery within a blended learning environment.

### III. Alternative Learning Options

**A. Case-by-case identified high-risk students and families (who are negatively impacted by COVID-19 during the 2021-2022 school year) are provided alternative learning opportunities to meet their medical, academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs. This includes:**

1. A process for students, parents and guardians' to request a review of the student's and/or family's self-identified high-risk isolation and quarantine situation case-by-case
2. The parent/guardian's completion of a Remote Alternative Learning Option application also known as RALO
3. RALO Team convening a review of applications and rendering a decision to the principal
4. Parent/guardian attending an arranged conference to share the outcome of the request
5. If approved, distribution of the student's educational plan and support provided with the alternative learning option.
6. Weekly monitoring of student outcomes until the student is able to return to in-person learning