



2020-2021

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan

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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 \$122 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. North Carolina will receive \$3.6 billion. This plan describes how our charter VERITAS Community School will provide the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services for our school. 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 United States Department of Education, 86 FR 21195.

VERITAS Community School's Plan includes the CDC's safety recommendations including: universal and correct wearing of masks; modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding); hand washing and respiratory etiquette; cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation; contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the state, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments; diagnostic and screening testing; 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 or practices; and coordination with state and local health officials.

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Description of maintaining health and safety:

VERITAS Community School follows the recommendations of the NC State Health and Safety Covid Toolkit and abides by all practices required by the state health officials. See link below. In addition, to maintain the health and safety of our school during the Covid pandemic, we follow strict cleaning protocol as well as all Covid tracking processes. We have hired additional nursing

staff as well as covid contact tracing clerical help to support our efforts. We work closely with the local health department and state leadership for added support as needed. We maintain a covid case spreadsheet and send regular communications to our staff and family stakeholders for transparency.

Universal and correct wearing of masks Description of Policies or Practices:

VERITAS Community School follows the recommendations of the NC State Health and Safety Covid Toolkit and abides by all practices required by the state health officials. See link below. In addition, in regard to mask policies, our Board has adopted a Covid Pandemic mask policy which is directly related to community metrics and school leadership recommendations. When there is high community spread, we use universal masking practices. As community spread metrics improve, we loosen standards and watch for any in school covid spread metrics that might suggest we should tighten back up. For the 2021-2022 school year, we have practiced universal masking for our entire Kindergarten through 8th Grade community because the community metrics have been in the orange and red zones with high community spread. Our School Board revisits school leadership mask recommendations monthly and votes accordingly.

Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing Description of Policies or Practices:

VERITAS Community School follows the recommendations of the NC State Health and Safety Covid Toolkit and abides by all practices required by the state health officials. See link below. We have marked 6 foot social distancing markings around the school and teachers encourage social distancing as much as possible with all students in the building, it is not possible for 6 foot social distancing at all times.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette Description of Policies or Practices:

VERITAS Community School follows the recommendations of the NC State Health and Safety Covid Toolkit and abides by all practices required by the state health officials. See link below. In addition, our staff encourage regular handwashing and teach healthy handwashing protocol. We have also added hand sanitizer for all classrooms and entrance doors. Our staff continuously reminds students of cough/sneeze etiquette as well as proper mask wearing.

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Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation Description of Policies or Practices:

VERITAS Community School follows the recommendations of the NC State Health and Safety Covid Toolkit and abides by all practices required by the state health officials. See link below. In addition, we have updated and replaced several of our older HVAC systems. We have also installed a multiple hospital grade air filters throughout the classrooms and communal spaces. We contract with a cleaning service who follows all covid cleaning protocol.

Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine Description of Policies or Practices:

VERITAS Community School follows the recommendations of the NC State Health and Safety Covid Toolkit and abides by all practices required by the state health officials. See link below. Our Covid contact tracing team includes front office administrative staff and school administrators. We follow all contact tracing and quarantining/isolation requirements as indicated in the state covid toolkit.

Diagnostic and screening testing Description of Policies or Practices:

VERITAS Community School follows the recommendations of the NC State Health and Safety Covid Toolkit and abides by all practices required by the state health officials. See link below. Guidelines for Acceptable Covid Tests as of 9/6/21 SYMPTOMATIC: Please note that per NC DHHS guidelines, for SYMPTOMATIC persons, we accept any covid testing noted as acceptable in our state health tool kit to meet diagnosis and quarantine clearance guidelines that allows students to return to school. EXPOSED, NO SYMPTOMS: For exposed persons, we accept any covid testing noted as acceptable in our state health tool kit to meet diagnosis and quarantine clearance guidelines as long as the exposed person is not exhibiting symptoms.

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Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students. Description of Policies or Practices:

VERITAS Community School follows the recommendations of the NC State Health and Safety Covid Toolkit and abides by all practices required by the state health officials. See link below.

Coordination with state and local health officials Description of Policies or Practices:

VERITAS Community School follows the recommendations of the NC State Health and Safety Covid Toolkit and abides by all practices required by the state health officials. See link below. Our staff works closely with the local health department and has contacts we can ask for support via phone and email. We have received access to their database and materials to support our covid response efforts. We report all positive covid cases to the health department weekly.

VERITAS Community School 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. VERITAS Community School follows the recommendations of the NC State Health and Safety Covid Toolkit and abides by all practices required by the state health officials.

VERITAS Community School follows the recommendations of the NC State Health and Safety Covid Toolkit and abides by all practices required by the state health officials. See link below. Our Board review of this current plan is scheduled for October 20, 2021, and we will conduct a 6 month review of this plan through September of 2023 at our monthly Board meeting. The VERITAS Community School board minutes will support as evidence of this review 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.

VERITAS Community School has shared this plan with our staff and parent community via email. We also posted this plan on our school website.

See link here: <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/media/164/open>