

The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief 3.0 (ESSER 3.0) Fund under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, was enacted on March 11, 2021. ARP ESSER Funding provides a total of nearly \$122 billion to states and local educational agencies (LEAs) to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the nation's students. In addition to ARP ESSER Funding, ARP includes \$3 billion for special education, \$850 million for Outlying Areas, \$2.75 billion to support non-public schools, and additional funding for homeless children and youth, Tribal educational agencies, Native Hawaiians, and Alaska Natives.

LEAs must develop and make publicly available a **Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan** that meets the following requirements within 30 days of receiving ARP ESSER allocation. If an LEA developed a plan before ARP was enacted that does not address the requirements, the LEA must revise its plan no later than six months after it last reviewed its plan. All plans must be developed with meaningful public consultation with stakeholder groups (i.e., families, staff, advocacy organizations representing student groups). The consultation process must include an opportunity for input and meaningful consideration of that input. ARP ESSER plans need to be published in an understandable and uniform format; to the extent practicable, 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.

ESSER III (ARP) requires Tekonsha Community Schools to update its **Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan** every six months, through the life of the grant.

We want 100% in-person learning every school day, and we want to keep all students and staff as safe as possible!

To do this, the following safety protocols and mitigations strategies will be enforced at Tekonsha Community Schools. Regular review and evaluation will take place throughout the year, working in collaboration with the Calhoun County Public Health Department. Any new mandates from CCPHD, MDHHS, MDE, or the CDC will be enforced.

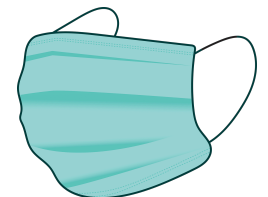
1. Describe the extent to which the LEA has adopted policies and a description of such policies on each of the following health and safety strategies:

Masks

Masks are an important tool to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus, especially for the unvaccinated.

Masks will be OPTIONAL for any individual in the school or on school grounds.

- Masks will be optional for any individual in the school or on school grounds. TCS will not require universal indoor masking by students, staff, teachers, and visitors regardless of vaccination status. The optional use of masks will be continuously reviewed and evaluated based on guidance from the CCPHD, MMDHS, and CDC. TCS will follow all



mandates from these organizations.

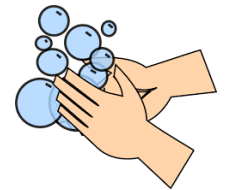
- It is recommended but not required for individuals to wear a mask if they have been exposed to an individual that has tested positive for COVID-19 or if they are experiencing any symptoms, but have not tested positive.
- Any students or staff returning to school following a five day isolation for a positive COVID test, must wear a mask for days 6-10 following the onset of symptoms.

Vaccinations

- The District will support the right for all eligible students and staff to get vaccinated. This includes, but is not limited to promoting local vaccination clinics, providing access to CCPHD, MDHHS, and CDC information on the district website, and providing other educational materials as requested.
- Vaccinations will NOT be required for all students and staff for in-person attendance.

Hygiene & Handwashing

- The District will provide adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors (including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol for safe use by staff and students, paper towels, tissues, and signs reinforcing proper handwashing techniques).
- Portable hand sanitizing stations will be set up at entrances and throughout school buildings.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms.
- The District will post CDC approved flyers in all bathrooms and common areas.
- Students will be reminded to use good hygiene practices, including but not limited to:
 - Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or the safe use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
 - Educate staff and students on how to cough and sneeze into their elbows, or to cover with a tissue, as well as proper techniques for disposal of used tissues.
 - Location of hand washing stations and hand sanitizer.
 - Safe procedures for opening doors.
- Students and teachers will be encouraged to wash hands with soap and water in addition to the use of hand sanitizer.
- All students are strongly encouraged to have their own school supplies to limit sharing of personal items and supplies such as writing utensils.
- Disinfecting wipes will be available to all classrooms to encourage the regular disinfecting of any shared classroom materials.
- Tissues will be provided in every classroom and masks will be available upon request for any individual showing symptoms.



Physical Distancing - Spacing, Movement, & Access**Classroom Space**

- Classroom groups at the K-6 level will continue to serve as natural cohorts. Students at this level will travel to and from specials, lunch and recess as they did prior to COVID.
- Grades 7-12 will continue in non-cohorted classes, although due to class size, natural cohorts also currently exist within these grades at TCS.
- As of 8/11/2022, the CDC has removed all recommendations regarding cohorting students in schools.

**Hallways and Common Areas**

- School buildings will not be open until 7:50 am. Students will be encouraged to go immediately to their first hour classrooms, to minimize congregating in hallways and common areas.
- Physical distancing is not required at TCS, but it is encouraged as a mitigation strategy.

Visitors

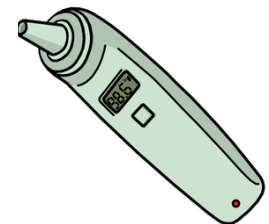
- Family members or other guests will have limited access for entrance in the school building except under academically necessary circumstances determined by district and school officials. All guests will be required to sign in and sign out, including date and time, when entering and exiting the building.

Screening Students and Staff**Students or Staff Symptomatic at School**

- Thermometers will be available in all offices for students or staff that would like to have temperature checked.
- Any individual experiencing symptoms will be encouraged to get tested. Tests are available in the office for those that request one for at home testing.
- TCS will not require a negative test for students to return to school.

Student and Staff Screening at Home

- Families and staff are encouraged to monitor their children for symptoms of COVID-19. The presence of any symptoms, including cough or shortness of breath, should prompt the family to keep the student home from school and to follow up with a primary care provider. All families will be provided with an [at-home self-screener](#) checklist to help with this at-home monitoring.

**COVID Testing**

- No mandatory testing is required at this time, but Tekonsha Community Schools will comply with all screening and testing requirements as mandated by any CCPHD, MDHHS, MDE, or CDC order.

Responding to Positive Tests Among Staff and Students**Isolation Guidance**

- All staff and students are requested to notify Tekonsha Community Schools if they have tested positive for COVID-19. All positive cases will be reported by the school immediately to the Calhoun County Public Health Department's communicable disease reporting system.
- All positive cases are still required to isolate at home for the first five days after the onset of symptoms.
- Beginning on day 6, if symptoms are improving the student can return to school but must wear a mask through day 10.
- Testing is not required to determine the end of an isolation period.
- TCS will do a notification on our website that will stay posted for 24 hours if there is a positive school-associated case in either building.

Exposure Guidance

- Schools are not required to do contact tracing for the 2023-24 school year and we do not recommend quarantine for people who are exposed to COVID-19. TCS will continue to partner with the CCPHD for any change in guidance or recommendations for contact tracing.
- TCS will encourage all current COVID-19 exposure guidance recommendations, which include during days 1-10 following exposure, monitor for symptoms, consider wearing a well-fitting mask, and test if symptoms develop.

Food Service, Gathering, Extracurricular Activities**Breakfast**

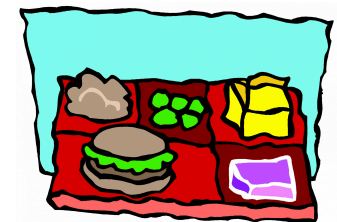
- Buildings will not open until 7:50 am.
- Elementary classrooms will come down to the multipurpose room one class at a time for breakfast in the first hour of the school day. MS/HS students will go through the breakfast line before school starts and take breakfast to their first hour classroom.

Lunch

- Lunch schedules will return to pre-COVID routines, with all grades eating in the cafeteria during assigned times.
- Lunch will be closed-campus for all students.

Assemblies/Field Trips/Extracurriculars

- All indoor and outdoor gatherings will comply with current and future executive orders.
- Extracurricular events will return to pre-COVID routines, with all events requiring administrative approval.



Athletics

At this time, all athletic events have returned to pre-COVID routines. Tekonsha Community Schools will comply with all athletics requirements as mandated by any MHSAA, CCPHD, MDHHS, MDE, or CDC order. The TCS Athletic Director will review and become familiar with all guidance published by the MHSAA and share this information with coaching staff, students, and parents.



Cleaning & Improving Ventilation

Cleaning

- The district will create schedules to meet cleaning recommendations and protocols with EPA-approved disinfectant for all required areas including:
 - Frequently touched surfaces including light switches, doors, benches, bathrooms.
 - Libraries, computer labs, arts, and other hands-on classrooms, if used by students.
 - Classroom manipulatives, books, and educational games.
- The cleaning and sanitizing desks and workstations each time students leave the room (K-6) and between class changes (7-12) will be encouraged but is not required.
- Appropriate PPE and cleaning supplies will be made available to all classroom teachers and staff in each building.
- Custodial staff will be available during the day to clean and check high traffic areas.
- District level administrators and building operations will meet to review and assess the plan for the cleaning and disinfecting of all buildings.

Ventilation

The Board of Education and TCS have allocated a large portion of our ESSER III funds toward the replacement and upgrade of our heating and cooling system. New units will be installed in both the elementary and HS buildings, providing air conditioning for all facilities, new heat in the HS building, and improved air circulation and ventilation.

Busing and Student Transportation

On the Bus

- Masks will not be required on bus transportation, and seating charts are not required. Bus drivers may choose to create a seating chart for safety and behavior management.
- To help maintain safety, bus passes will be required for any change to bus riders and can be denied at the discretion of administration.



Cleaning the Bus

- All buses will be cleaned and disinfected before each transportation run. This will include frequently touched surfaces in the vehicle, such as: surfaces in the driver's cockpit, hard seats, arm rests, door handles, seat belt buckles, and any equipment, such as car seats, wheelchairs, walkers, and adaptive equipment being transported to schools daily.
- No students will be present when a vehicle is being cleaned.
- All necessary cleaning supplies and PPE for cleaning will be provided by the district.

Medically Vulnerable Students/Students with IEPs

Tekonsha Community Schools will systematically review all current plans (e.g. Individual Healthcare Plans, Individualized Education Programs, Individualized Family Service Plans, or 504 plans) for accommodating students with special needs and update care plans as needed to decrease their risk for exposure to COVID-19.

- Students with disabilities receiving in-person instruction are afforded individualized accommodations that have been identified through the IEP team process. Students are provided both the learning accommodations and the health and safety accommodations that have been agreed upon and developed by the entire IEP team.
- Students with disabilities who are receiving instruction from home isolation will be provided the same required accommodations. These will be provided in a way that best meets the needs of the students, including, but not limited to, in person homebound visits for instruction and related services.

2. Describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address the students' academic needs, and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.

Instruction

Tekonsha Community Schools will continue to offer the following instructional options for all students K-12. Each option will require a semester-long commitment. All students K-5 will be assigned a device to keep at school. Grade 6-12 will be issued a device to take home. All students are strongly encouraged to participate in in-person learning.

In-Person Learning

- Students will attend school face-to-face at Tekonsha Community Schools in grades K-12, Monday - Friday, beginning August 23, 2023.
- The school day will follow a traditional schedule, with accommodations made to follow safety protocols outlined in this document. All protocols are subject to

change based on MDHHS and CDC recommendations, guidance, and mandates.

- Attendance will be based on in person attendance in classes. All grading and assessment protocols of a traditional school year will be followed.
- All curriculum used will be district-approved curriculum based on Michigan Academic Standards.

Full-Time Virtual Instruction

- Families will be required to make a semester commitment to this program.
- A full schedule of all core subjects and elective options for students 6-12.
- A Michigan certified teacher will be provided, with a TCS mentor. All courses will be offered using the Edgenuity curriculum.
- Students must not have failed virtual courses in the same subject during the two most recent academic years.
- The virtual enrollment request must occur within the predetermined timelines established for enrollment and schedule changes.
- Students will be provided with a district Chromebook. Assistance with internet accessibility devices will be available to families in need.
- Students are considered a full time Tekonah student, and can participate in athletics and extracurricular activities. Devices will be provided to all students, and assistance for internet access will be available.
- Online submission of [Full-Time Virtual Learning Commitment Form](#) or PDF of [Full-Time Virtual Learning Commitment Form](#)

Ensuring Academic Needs

Benchmark Assessments

Tekonsha Community Schools will use the Renaissance Star assessments in reading and mathematics for all students in grades K-8. TCS will report benchmark assessment data to parents and legal guardians within 30 days of students completing the assessment. The assessment will be administered three times a year:

- The first within the first six weeks of school
- The second during the month of January
- The third during the spring, prior to the last day of school in June.
- TCS will also use extensive assessments (Fountas & Pinnell, Dibbles, Go Math) to determine interventions and supports to better meet the needs of its learners in both reading and math. Progress reports will be available to parents each 9 weeks of instruction.
- Using the district's continuous improvement process, TCS will continue to engage stakeholders in the district's assessment system, including publicly sharing aggregate and student subgroup data on benchmark goal progress on the district website.

Intervention

- Tekonsha Community Schools has paraprofessionals that work with identified students, using Leveled Literacy Intervention lessons. All K-8 classroom teachers also have access to MobyMax, as an online tool for both extension and intervention practice.

Coaching

- For the 2023-24 school year, Tekonsha K-3 teachers will be working with a Literacy Coach to help better address instructional needs for phonics, reading, and writing.

Google Classroom

- All staff and teachers will continue to make effective use of Google Classroom, as well as other Google applications, to maintain a continuity of services when students are limited in their school attendance.

Ensuring Mental & Social-Emotional Health Needs

- The district will provide a Student Support Team, comprised of:
 - K-12 Part Time School Social Worker (Special Ed)
 - K-12 Part Time Mental Health Specialist (31n - Gen Ed)
 - MS/HS Counselor
 - K-5 Elementary Behavior Interventionist
- Crisis numbers and QR codes for instant access to resources will be placed in all MS/HS public restrooms.
- Staff will be provided with timely, responsive, and ongoing training/professional development as well as needed tools, resources, and implementation support, focused on a variety of topics, including: social-emotional learning, trauma-informed best practices, identification of students at risk and proper local referral protocols, and self-care to promote holistic wellness and resilience and to prevent burnout and vicarious trauma.
- The HS/MS Counselor will serve as the district's mental health liaison (school-based) who will work across the school, local public health agencies, and community partners.
- The Student Support Team will be trained by and work with the Calhoun Intermediate School District in the implementation of the Critical Incident Stress Management / Debriefing protocols, as well as use our Crisis Prevention and Response Plan protocols as needed ((e.g., loss of student, loss of a school staff member).
- The district will utilize the Trails to Wellness K-12 curriculum of Social Emotional Learning for implementation based on the The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) core competencies of self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision-making, relationship skills, and social awareness.

Food Services Needs

Tekonsha Community Schools participates with the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), which provides FREE breakfast and lunch to all students, without the need for a Free and Reduced Lunch application and qualification. This allows for all of our students, K-12, to have their food needs met.

3. Describe how the LEA will, in planning for the use of ARP ESSER funds, engage in meaningful consultation with stakeholders. Provide an overview of how the public stakeholder input was considered in the development of the LEA's Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan.

Seeking Input

Tekonsha Community Schools' first COVID Learning Plan was developed for the 2020-21 school year based on collaboration with other schools and organizations (much of the work was guided by GELN), input with administrators, board members, teachers, staff and parents. Each regular Board of Education meeting has a public voice time in which community members and parents are offered an opportunity to express any comments or concerns.

Information on our Safe Return to School Plan was included in the district's digital newsletter "TCS News to Know" at the beginning of the 2022-23 school year, with a digital survey soliciting comments and questions. The newsletter continues to have this comment box available in each weekly edition. Public input can be made at any time by accessing the newsletter on the district website at www.tekonshaschools.org.

4. Describe the periodic review process and how the LEA will put the plan in an understandable and uniform format.

Periodic Review Process

The Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan will be presented to the Board of Education on the following dates:

- August 2023
- February 2024
- August 2024

- February 2024
- August 2025
- February 2025

Uniform Format

The Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan will be presented in this current template. It will be made available to the public by being posted to the district website at www.tekonshaschools.org. Accommodations will be made for those that require an alternative form due to a disability or language barrier.