



The following is a draft of the School's plan and it is being made available in an effort to obtain public input on the proposed strategies and whether any revisions to the plan are appropriate. The School will accept public comment on the plan through June 15 and will take comments it receives into account in developing the final plan, which will be posted to the School's website on or before June 24, 2021. Subsequently, the plan will be reviewed periodically, but no less frequently than every six months through September 30, 2023, in order to determine whether any revisions are necessary. The School will seek public input prior to making any subsequent revisions to the plan.

[Academy for Urban Scholars]

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

(American Rescue Plan – ESSER III)

The following strategies and procedures are established based on CDC safety recommendations for safely returning to in-person instruction while maintaining the health and safety of students and staff:

Mitigation Strategies

A. Universal and correct wearing of masks:

The Academy for Urban Scholars will require consistent and correct use of well-fitting face masks for all students, teachers and staff. Exceptions of this rule will be granted during certain activities (eating, drinking, physical education) and also for those individuals that have provided proof of full vaccination.

In addition, face coverings will be distributed upon entry into the building. Faculty and staff will work to ensure that students are properly wearing face coverings at all times.

B. Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding):

The rate of community transmission will determine the social distancing plan that will be implemented throughout the building.

- **Low to Moderate Community Transmission:** Students will remain at least 3 feet apart in all classrooms. Teachers and staff will maintain 6 feet of distance at all times. When masks cannot be worn, (such as when eating or conducting physical activity) students and staff will utilize spaces in well ventilated areas while following all required social distancing protocols.

- **Substantial to High Community Transmission:** Students will remain at least 6 feet apart in all classroom settings. Cohorting practices will be implemented and students will be scheduled specific days and times to come into the building to control the spread of the virus. On the days that students are not in the building they will be equipped with the necessary tools to conduct their educational learning virtually.
- Non- essential visitors, volunteers and activities will be limited as much as possible. All visitors will be required to wear masks and socially distance themselves from others while inside the building.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette:

All staff and students follow enhanced hygiene protocols including: face covering protocols, frequent hand washing/sanitizing, covering mouth and nose when sneezing and coughing, staying home when ill for any reason, having a temperature at or above 100 degrees, or experiencing any symptom of the COVID-19 virus.

Sanitation Plan:

COVID Resource officer will be employed to implement and facilitate all safety practices and protocols:

- Once school is in session, students will be required to wash hands at Hand Washing stations.
- All classroom equipment will be spray/sanitized hourly
- All door knobs, restrooms, tables, etc... will be sanitized and wiped down hourly
- Plastic shield protectors onto all desk throughout the building
- Mandatory mask uniform policy for students in hallways
- Each class will be equipped with hand sanitizer and air treatment devices that kills viruses, germs etc...

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation:

In an effort to ensure that AUS maintains clean healthy facilities, and improve ventilation, the following schedule will be created and followed with fidelity:

- A designated staff member will be responsible for hourly wipe downs of all door knobs, desks, restrooms etc...
- The school will be cleaned by professionals weekly
- The school will undergo deep cleaning with industry standard electrostatic bacteria cleaning on a monthly basis.
- A HEPPA/UV Germ guard device will be installed in all classrooms to kill all airborne germs.

E. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the state, local, territorial or tribal health departments:

During high community transmission AUS will implement a COVID Contact Tracer that will be required by all staff on a daily basis. This form will be utilized to monitor the interactions that each staff member has with any individuals inside or outside of the building.

Teachers, staff and family will be educated on when they or their children should stay home and be referred to a health care facility for testing.

If a positive test is found teachers, staff and families will be required to notify the school and inform them of any other contacts that could lead to further exposure to the virus. Any individuals that have been exposed to the virus should go into isolation, stay home and follow the direction of the local health department.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing:

As a preventative measure, AUS will enforce temperature checks and light screenings (questions related to health) upon entering the building.

In addition, all staff and students follow enhanced hygiene protocols.

If for any reason individuals have a temperature at or above 100 degrees, or experiencing any symptom of the COVID-19 virus or have a positive test result they will immediately be placed in COVID protocol. This status will require the individual to go immediately into isolation and remain home. They will not return to the building until they have received negative test results or until 10 days have passed since the positive test results were received.

If an individual is displaying COVID like symptoms or may have been in contact with someone that has been exposed to the virus it is recommended that he/she remains home and contacts their local health provider to schedule for testing.

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

AUS will work collaboratively with the local health department and other health organizations throughout the community to provide onsite vaccination opportunities for both students and their families. School officials will also work with various agencies and organizations to support messaging and outreach about vaccination for members of school communities. Staff and students will not be penalized for absences that are related to being vaccinated.

H. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies:

AUS will ensure that all outreach, educational material and institutional policy will be provided in a manner that accommodates the specific needs of the population that it serves. The information will be conveyed in a families' home language or mode of communication and in alternate formats that will facilitate effective communication with those that are hindered by disabilities.

Continuity of Services

The Academy for Urban Scholars recognizes the importance of fluidity between all departments and the services provided. Teachers, staff and administrators will conduct departmental and building-wide meetings to ensure that all departments are operating with the same vision and remaining on course to achieve the collective goal.

Prior to finalizing this plan, the School will post draft of the plan on the School's website and provided the public with an opportunity to provide comments. The School will review this plan and, as appropriate, revise the plan, no less frequently than every six months through September 30, 2023.

Academy for Urban Scholars High School
ARP ESSER 3 Use of Funds Plan
August 18, 2021

The Academy for Urban Scholars High School will ensure that its ARP Funds meet all the required elements and are spent in an allowable manner.

1. Our ARP ESSER funds will be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the greatest extent practicable, consistent with the most recent CDC guidance on reopening schools, in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in person learning.

We recognize that safe reopening schools and sustaining safe operations to maximize in person instruction is essential for student learning and student well-being. The School will maintain the health and safety of students, educators and other School staff. To support the safe return to in-person instruction and sustain safe operation, the School developed the "Return to Campus COVID 19 Guidelines Student/Parents/Staff Handbook". The guide is available at: <https://www.ausohio.com>. This guide is updated regularly to meet the guidelines and requirements provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Ohio Department of Education, and state and local health officials.

The guide includes the following prevention and mitigation strategies:

1. Screening and Isolation
2. Personal Protective Equipment (this protocol is subject to change)
3. Disinfecting and sanitizing learning and work environments
4. Ventilation improvements in all School buildings and campuses

2. We will address the academic impact of lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year.

We will use the ESSER funds to identify, re engage, and support students most likely to have experienced the impact of lost instructional time on student learning, such as:

- a. Students who have missed in-person instruction at our school, or other schools, during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years;
- b. Students who did not consistently participate in instruction when offered; and
- c. Students most at-risk of dropping out of school

We will use at least 20% of our ARP ESSER funds to address the academic impact of lost instructional time (learning loss) through the implementation of evidence-based interventions. These interventions include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Evidence-based Interventions
 - High-impact tutoring
 - Saturday school enrichment
 - Just in time supplemental instruction in pre-requisites skills needed to access upcoming grade level content
 - Small Group and Individualized Instruction
 - Differentiation

2. Instructional Resources and Curriculum Materials
 - IXL
 - Read 180
 - Study Island
 - Summer learning high-quality instructional materials

3. Professional Learning
 - Reading Academies to support early literacy instruction
 - Professional learning stipends

4. Stipends – Staff retention and recruitment incentive stipends

5. Technology
 - Devices
 - Infrastructure upgrades

6. Truancy Prevention Measures – Additional Engagement Coaches to track student attendance and help improve student engagement

3. Spend remaining ARP ESSER funds consistent with section 2001(e)(2) of the ARP Act.

We will spend all remaining ARP ESSER funds on the following health, safety and learning measures.

- training and professional development on sanitizing and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases;
- purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean our facilities;
- repairing and improving school facilities to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards;
- improving indoor air quality;

- addressing the needs of children from low-income families, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth;
- developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve our preparedness and response efforts;
- planning for or implementing activities during long-term closures, including providing meals to eligible students and providing technology for online learning;
- purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, connectivity, assistive technology, and adaptive equipment) for students that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, including students from low-income families and children with disabilities;
- providing mental health services and supports, including through the implementation of evidence based full-service community schools and the hiring of counselors;
- planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental after-school programs; and
- addressing learning loss.

4. Ensure that any implemented interventions, including those implemented under ARP section 2002(e)(1) to address the academic impact of lost instructional time, will respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, and particularly those students disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including students from low-income families, students of color, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and, migratory students.

Our Curriculum Department will work collaboratively with the Head of School to support and monitor implementation of evidence-based interventions. The Curriculum Department in conjunction with the Head of School will be responsible for data collection and analysis of the interventions. They will help in identifying the most effective interventions employed.

Data collection and analysis will include academic indicators, social-emotional indicators, and instructional time indicators including excessive absenteeism. In addition, the curriculum team and the campus administrators will work closely with the school counselors and the community liaisons to reduce and/or remove barriers to learning. This will ensure that families have the needed resources to support the needs of students disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.