

City School District of Albany

2020-21 District Update

Decisions may be adjusted based on additional feedback and data

Kaweeda G. Adams, Superintendent

May 20, 2021



CSDA Guiding Principles

Vision Statement

The City School District of Albany will be a district of excellence with caring relationships and engaging learning experiences that provide equitable opportunities for all students to reach their potential.

Mission Statement

We will work in partnership with our diverse community to engage every learner in a robust educational program designed to provide the knowledge and skills necessary for success.

Goals

- Increase **student achievement**
- Enhance the **delivery of quality instruction**
- Build our **leadership capacity**
- Empower families**
- Partner with our diverse community**



2020-21 District Update

Discussion Topics

- COVID-19 update
- Quarter 4/End-of-year activities update
- 2021-22 instructional planning
- NYS updated COVID-19 guidance
- ARP-ESSER funding guidance
- Beaver Creek project update
- Feeder Alignment Committee

2020-21 District Update

COVID-19 Status and Update

2020-21 school year (as of 05.19.21)

- Total confirmed cases to date: 374
 - Total cases involving on-site individuals: 199
 - Total cases involving off-site individuals: 175

- Average number of daily district cases
 - October/November: 0.9 new cases per day
 - December: 2.9 new cases day
 - January: 4.4 new cases per day
 - February: 1.6 new cases per day
 - March: 1.3 new cases per day
 - April: 1.3 new cases per day
 - May (as of May 19): 0.7 new cases per day

- ACDOH guidance regarding contact tracing and quarantine

2020-21 District Update

COVID-19 Status and Update

All buildings are practicing required COVID-19 precautions, including:

- Cleaning and sanitizing all spaces in use on a daily basis
- Pre-arrival symptom and temperature screening for students and staff
- Wearing masks
- Hand hygiene
- Social distancing
- Additional health, hygiene and safety precautions in alignment with our Reopening Plan

Employees and students have done an excellent job following these protocols. We will continue to emphasize the importance of all of these safeguards, and continue to monitor all updates and new guidance.

Communication procedures are in alignment with Albany County Health Department guidelines.



2020-21 District Update

Quarter 4 Update

➤ **Elementary School**

- Moving-up ceremonies
- Grade 5
- Grade 6 (at elementary school)

➤ **Middle School**

- Moving-up ceremonies
- Eighth-grade celebrations

➤ **High School**

- End-of-the-year recognitions and celebrations
- Graduation June 26-27

2020-21 District Update

2021-22 Instructional Planning

The 2021-22 budget proposal, in combination with federal COVID-19 relief aid, would allow the district to fully support all instructional models permitted by COVID-19 social distancing requirements that may be in place.

- Full in-person model (NYSDOH guidance 04.09.21)
- In-person/hybrid models (similar to current fourth-quarter options)
- Additional virtual option (pending State Education Department guidance for 2021-22)

2020-21 District Update

NYS Updated COVID-19 Guidance (05.17.21)

Governor Cuomo announced that, effective Wednesday, New York would follow the recent CDC guidance that fully vaccinated individuals can, in most cases, resume activities without masks or physically distancing:

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-new-york-state-adopt-new-cdc-guidance-mask-use-and-social-distancing>

Exceptions include schools

- **Schools serving students from pre-K through grade 12 are not included in that guidance and must continue to follow all COVID-19 protocols**
 - Masks, social distancing still required until more New Yorkers are fully vaccinated

Guidance for events

- Attendance below the state's social gathering limit – 250 indoors, 500 outdoors
 - Venues may require masks for all patrons – NYSDOH strongly recommends masks in indoor settings where vaccination status is unknown
 - Social distancing of 6 feet required between parties of attendees, unless all attendees present proof of full vaccination status
 - Unvaccinated people should still wear masks

2020-21 District Update

NYSDOH Guidance (04.09.21)

Community Transmission Rate		Physical Distancing Guidance	
Low, moderate risk of transmission		Elementary, middle and high schools can maintain physical distancing of at least 3 feet between students in classrooms	
Substantial risk of transmission		Elementary, middle and high schools can maintain physical distancing of at least 3 feet between students in classrooms AND cohorting is recommended when possible	
High risk of transmission		Elementary schools can maintain physical distancing of at least 3 feet between students in classrooms AND cohorting is recommended when possible. Middle and high schools can maintain physical distancing of at least 3 feet only when schools can use cohorting. <i>If cohorting cannot be used, middle and high schools must maintain physical distancing of at least 6 feet between students in classrooms.</i>	
		6 feet social distancing must be maintained:	
		Between adults and between students and adults	
		When eating meals or snacks, drinking or other times masks must be removed.	
		Activities that require projecting the voice (singing) or playing a wind instrument	
		Between performers and audience members	
		In common areas outside of the classrooms where possible (lobbies, auditoriums, cafeterias, hallways)	

2020-21 District Update

2021-22 Instructional Planning

Elementary (PK-5)	Middle school (6-8)	High school (9-12)
<p>Full in-person, based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYSDOH guidance (3 feet) • Student selections less than 75% building capacity <p>NOTE: If student selections at a school exceed 75% building capacity, students may be assigned to another school based on space availability</p>	<p>Full in-person, based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYSDOH guidance (3 feet) • Student selections less than 75% building capacity <p>or</p> <p>Hybrid (grades 7 and 8), based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYSDOH guidance (3 feet) • Student selections exceed 75% building capacity • Students attending every other day 	<p>Full in-person, based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYSDOH guidance (3 feet) • Student selections less than 75% building capacity <p>or</p> <p>Hybrid, based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYSDOH guidance (3 feet) • Student selections exceed 75% building capacity • Students attending every other day
<p>Self-contained special education Full in-person K-12</p>		<p>Virtual option Pending updated guidance from the State Education Department</p>

2020-21 District Update

ARP-ESSER Funding Overview

- On April 21, the U.S. Department of Education issued Interim Final Requirements (IFR) that include examples of ways in which an LEA may use its ARP-ESSER funds for a wide variety of activities related to educating students during the COVID-19 pandemic and addressing the impacts of the pandemic on students and educators.
- USDE's IFR also references the American Recovery Plan (ARP) statutory requirement that an LEA receiving ARP-ESSER funds **must reserve at least 20% of its 90% base ARP-ESSER funds (\$31,422,374) to measure and address the academic impact of lost instructional time on all students through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, including but not limited to interventions implemented through summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs or extended school year programs.**
- USDE's IFR also states that the LEA must ensure that such interventions **respond to students' academic, social, emotional and mental health needs, and address the impact of COVID-19 on groups of students that the pandemic has disproportionately impacted.**

2020-21 District Update

ARP-ESSER Funding Guidelines

School districts will prioritize spending on non-recurring expenses in these areas:

- Safely returning students to in-person instruction
- Maximizing in-person instruction time
- Operating schools and meeting the needs of students
- Purchasing educational technology
- **Addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on students, including the impacts of interrupted instruction and learning loss and the impacts on low income students, children with disabilities, English language learners, and students experiencing homelessness***
- **Offering evidence-based summer, before/after-school and other extended day programs***
- Evidence-based strategies to meet students' social, emotional, mental health and academic needs
- Supporting early childhood education
- Facility repairs and improvements to enable school operations to reduce the risk of transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards, and to support student health needs
- Inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrade projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities, including mechanical and non-mechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, filtering, purification and other air cleaning, fans, control systems, and window and door repair and replacement.

****20% of the base funding must be allocated for the identified area (\$6,284,475)***

2020-21 District Update

ARP-ESSER Funding Guidelines

NYS Local Educational Agency American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund Allocation

	90% LEA ARP-ESSER Allocation	1% State-Level Reserve Summer Enrichment Grant	1% State-Level Reserve Comprehensive After School Grant	5% State-Level Reserve for Learning Loss	State-Level Reserve Total Grants	LEA Total ARP-ESSER Allocations
City School District of Albany	\$31,422,374	\$182,630	\$182,630	\$913,121	\$1,278,381*	\$32,700,755

**CSDA received an additional ARP-ESSER Learning Loss Grant (\$1,278,381).*

2020-21 District Update

ARP-ESSER Funding Guidelines

- The budget language states that LEAs are to identify any programs utilizing such funding that are expected to continue beyond the availability of such federal funds, and identify local funds that will be used to maintain such programs in order to minimize disruption to core academic and other school programs
- Before posting such plan, the budget language states that the LEA is to seek public comment from parents and guardians, teachers and other stakeholders on the plan, and to take such comments into account in the development of the plan
- The department will not be developing a template or collecting the plans referenced in the state budget language
- The department will send LEAs information on meeting the ARP-ESSER plan requirements under the ARP statute, and the U.S. Department of Education's ARP-ESSER Interim Final Requirements (IFR)

2020-21 District Update

ARP-ESSER Funding Community Forums, Survey

Input survey

The district is planning a survey for families and community members to provide input that will help prioritize the categories in which the district will use the one-time American Rescue Plan funds

- **Survey distributed digitally during the week of May 24**

Community forums

The district is planning three virtual forums to allow all stakeholders to learn more about the ARP funding, to ask questions and provide feedback:

- **Thursday, June 10 – 6-7 p.m.**
- **Saturday, June 19 – 10-11 a.m.**
- **Monday, June 21 – 6-7 p.m.**

You will be able to watch the meetings on the district's YouTube channel, and submit questions in advance or live using the Feedback form at **albanschools.org**.



2020-21 District Update

Beaver Creek Clean Water Project Update

The city has begun construction in Lincoln Park, adjacent to TOAST.

- **Direct impact on TOAST** – Traffic, student dropoff/pickup, parking
- Safety for all, especially students, has been our priority in working with the city on revised traffic flow and parking plans
 - **May 3** – Additional TOAST faculty/staff parking in the Sunshine School parking lot behind TOAST
 - **May 10** – TOAST access road closed to through traffic; two-way loop entering and exiting from Delaware Avenue.
 - Grades 1-6 dropoff/pickup via the Sunshine access road off Delaware near the Lincoln Park tennis courts, in back of TOAST
 - **The city designated the Sunshine road one-way from Delaware to MLK Drive**
 - Pre-K/K dropoff/pickup remain in front of the building using a designated zone
 - First Student buses continue to dropoff and pickup at the school's main entrance
- **Indirect impact on Hackett Middle School**
 - Potential congestion on Delaware during peak school hours
- **Project timeline** – Estimated completion December 2022

2020-21 District Update

Feeder Alignment Committee

➤ Purpose of the committee

- To engage community members and district personnel in a partnership to develop criteria and make recommendations for an equitable feeder pattern for all students transitioning from elementary (PreK -5) to middle school (grades 6-8).

➤ Committee Members

- 17-20 member committee
- Each school represented
- Current parents/guardians of district students

➤ Application process (albanyschools.org/committee)

- Letter of interest (**due June 4**)
 - Name, address, phone number and email
 - Number of students in the district and schools attending
 - Statement explaining your interest in participating on the committee
 - Expectations of the work and outcomes
 - Skills and contributions which will benefit the committee

- 17 ➤ **Virtual meeting dates and times** TBD (Summer and Fall 2021)



Questions

