The Virginia LEARNS initiative is about to take you on a journey to successful educational outcomes during uncertain times. The Student and Staff Wellbeing Checkpoint is the essential first-step consideration before embarking on the trip. We’ll focus on the social emotional wellness and physical health needs of our students, families, and staff. It will be critical to re-engage students in learning, rebuild relationships and school communities, and create equitable learning environments for all students.

**KEY POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- Because of the widespread and cumulative effects of the pandemic, it is imperative that schools plan for the social-emotional and physical health needs of **all** students (universal approach).
- Addressing the social-emotional needs of staff will help them be ready to face their own challenges and promote the social-emotional wellbeing of their students.
- Engaging families and communities as partners is essential in providing safe and supportive learning environments that maximize the potential of all learners.
- Schools should continue effective mitigation strategies to reduce COVID transmission in school and allow for continued in person learning.

**LEADING**

How can we as leaders make sure our staff are prepared and informed of the work ahead and the needs of all of our students?

- Provide training for all school staff to prepare them to promote student health and wellness; implement universal trauma-informed classroom strategies; implement self-care strategies; build strong relationships with students and families, and identify mental health concerns in their students and colleagues.

**OPPORTUNITY & RESOURCES**

- CARES grants to school divisions for the School-Based Mental Health Services and Supports program and the Social-Emotional Universal Screener.
- Student Services Learning and Resource Center
  - Social Emotional Wellness Quick Guides
  - Office of Student Services Training Videos

**ENGAGING**

How are we making sure we are transparent regarding safety and mitigation efforts so our community has an understanding of our efforts?

- Promote vaccination of teachers and staff as an extra layer of mitigation efforts, and provide information regarding safety and efficacy to reduce concerns regarding safety and efficacy to parents and school staff.

**OPPORTUNITY & RESOURCES**

- VDOE COVID-19 Resources for Schools
- VDH COVID K-12 Resources

**ASSESSING**

How are we identifying resources, supports and interventions needed for our diverse student populations and using a structure to inform all of this work in our school communities?

- Implement a multi-tiered framework of supports that integrates universal practices focused on student well-being throughout the curriculum and layers on additional supports for those students who may need more targeted or individualized supports.

**OPPORTUNITY & RESOURCES**

- CARES grants to school divisions for the School-Based Mental Health Services and Supports program and the Social-Emotional Universal Screener.
- Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports Research and Implementation Center
RECOVERING
How are we working to ascertain needs of our students and then support them in a meaningful way so that they can be fully engaged and supported learners?

Delivery of social-emotional learning (SEL) curriculum and supports to all students PK-12.

OPPORTUNITY & RESOURCES
- CARES grants to school divisions for the School-Based Mental Health Services and Supports program and the Social-Emotional Universal Screener.
- SEL Implementation Resources
- CASEL Implementation Tools and Resources

NURTURING
How are we placing scaffolding of staff supports around our students, staff and families?

Increase staffing levels of school-based mental health providers (school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, school nurses, community MH providers), and maximize direct service delivery time for SBMH personnel.

How we can inform, support and alleviate concerns from our families during this uncertain time?

Establish strong two-way communication between school and families as a mechanism to promote trust and understanding and ultimately help students thrive.

OPPORTUNITY & RESOURCES
- CARES grants to school divisions for the School-Based Mental Health Services and Supports program and the Social-Emotional Universal Screener.
- VDOE COVID-19 Resources for Schools
- VDH COVID K-12 Resources
- Tips for Communicating with Families
- VDOE Family Engagement Resource Flyer

SUCCEEDING
How are we setting up successful outcomes for our school community?

Strengthen existing, or develop new, partnerships with community agencies to address the well-being of students and families.

OPPORTUNITY & RESOURCES
- Office of Student Services Training Videos
- Virginia Community School Framework
- VDOE COVID-19 Resources for Schools

Don’t forget your EdEquityVA Equity Compass!
Equity Considerations should always guide you on every checkpoint!