



## SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES |

### Introduction

From the very start of the pandemic, Trinity Charter Schools exhibited our collective strength in mobilizing the support and resources necessary to begin our school year safely and responsibly. We know the last academic year has been very challenging for our TCS students, parents, community and staff members. There has been a constant wave of ever-changing information from many different levels. We appreciate your patience and support during this time.

All students began the 2020-2021 school year virtually. Virtual instruction continued for six weeks, this date changed at various campuses based on the conditions set within geographic boundaries of each campus and guidance from local, state and federal health officials.

Meeting the needs of each student has been a strength of Trinity Charter Schools, and this year was no different. TCS ensured 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.

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### ESSER III Overview and Planning

Trinity Charter Schools is allocated \$2M in funding to use through September 2024. At least 20% of those funds must be used to address learning loss.

Requirements:

In order to receive ESSER allotments, TCS must have two written plans along with evidence of meaningful community engagement.

- 1. Written Plans:**

Use of Funds Plan

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan  
(Both Plans posted on TCS website)

- 2. Community Consultation**

Meaningful input from a wide variety of stakeholders

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### Communication

At Trinity Charter Schools, our students have diverse educational backgrounds and needs. Due to the unique student population on our campuses, we value strong community support. Trinity Charter Schools has a continuous surrogate parent recruitment process. We have also increased our efforts to encourage support from the community that includes the Residential Treatment Center Community, along with Juvenile Probation Officers, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). TCS is committed to ensuring parents, families and community members are full partners in their child's education.



In preparation for effective planning in each key area of work, it was critical to receive feedback from our families and teaching staff regarding their experiences during school closures. Feedback regarding concerns and needs was essential as we planned for the school year with a lens of continuous improvement. Strategies for implementing effective parent and family engagement included virtual and in-person meetings, regular electronic communication, and ongoing survey research with all levels of stakeholders.

Students, and Staff were surveyed May 21 through May 28, 2021.

Parents, family and community were surveyed June 2 -22, 2021

Family Survey - focused on seeking feedback on their overall learning experience, connectivity/technology, student engagement, social emotional well being, and feedback on what improvements could be made for the fall, and what are the greatest concerns with returning to school for 100% face-to-face instruction, for the 21-22 school year.

Teacher Survey - focused on seeking feedback on instructional barriers and obstacles faced during the closure, student engagement, student instructional support, communication with students, staff and leadership, and overall well being.

### **Periodic Review and Revision of the Plan**

During the period in which ESSER III funds are available, Trinity Charter Schools will review and revise the plan at least every six months. These revisions will take into account community feedback and guidance from the Texas Education Agency.

### **Use of Funds**

Trinity Charter Schools plans to use ESSER funds in 4 categories that align with TEA’s spending buckets. We will also adapt our plan as we learn what is most impactful.

1. Supported Teachers	Professional Development, Staff Recruitment/Retention
2. Rigorous Instructional Materials	Digital Tools/Software, High-Quality Curriculum
3. Personalized Student Learning	Personalized Learning Model (ILP), High Dose Tutoring, Summer Enrichment, Transition Coordinator Program
4. Social Emotional Well-being	SEL Support for Students, Teachers, and Parents

### **Personalized Student Learning**

The impact of the pandemic left significant unfinished learning on students at Trinity Charter Schools. TCS is committed to doing everything possible to ensure our students receive rigorous instruction that meets the student’s individual needs, no matter whether students are learning in person or remotely.

Personalized learning models better utilize instructional time and leverage student strengths. These models provide teachers with additional opportunities for intensive interventions for students that are struggling with concepts or those that were most heavily impacted by unfinished learning. Personalized learning will enable TCS to target and respond to the specific learning needs of each of our students. Funds will cover costs for additional digital tools, assessment resources and professional learning.

### **TCS Expectations**

- Provide students/parents with training on the programs used by the campus/district.
- Deliver regular, predictable instruction to students using the Google Classroom platform, supplemented by other programs.
- Arrange individualized learning and interventions for students as needed using IEPs and campus developed Individualized Learning Plans
- Plan and implement engagement that is equivalent to direct content work that a student would be engaged in over a normal school year

### **High-Dosage Tutoring**

High-dosage tutoring is one of the most effective ways to increase achievement for students that identify as economically-disadvantaged. This very targeted, personalized tutoring method accelerates student learning and closes learning gaps.

Data from student's Personalized Individual Learning Plans will inform tutoring personnel on student's gaps and prioritize areas of student learning and instructional practices.

### **Staff Recruitment and Retention**

Trinity Charter Schools will continue to focus on high-quality rigorous instruction.

### **Investing in Talent**

TCS will leverage the most effective resource we have to improve student achievement - our teachers. We will incorporate a variety of strategic staffing designs to recruit and retain staff. In addition, we will expand our teacher coaching model to ensure every teacher has access to a high-quality instructional coach.

## **Implementation**

To effectively meet the needs of students, Trinity Charter Schools will continue to support a professional development program that provides instructional staff and leadership with the tools and knowledge required to teach the written curriculum; thereby, building capacity within schools so there is a commitment to teaching, learning and continuous improvement.

All staff are required to participate in continuous growth as an integral part of their job assignment. Trinity Charter Schools' professional development program provides capacity building opportunities based upon individual needs and professional goals as they relate to campus and program goals.

### **Areas of Focus**

- Content area knowledge, curriculum documents and planning, technology programs, and data driven instruction.
- Fall PD Week of professional learning opportunities.
- Professional development focus topics identified each month with learning opportunities provided.
- Professional development dates included in the school year- data and teacher/ administrator feedback will drive decisions for focus topics
- Job-embedded coaching and regular PLCs with Master-Mentor Team as needed, throughout the year.

## **SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING**

All Trinity Charter School staff will be trained on approaches for building individual resilience through self-care and active coping.. Campus staff will learn basic information about stress and how COVID-19 has resulted in a “perfect storm” stress condition.

### **Trauma-Informed Care and Strategies**

All TCS Campus staff will learn how to create systems of support on campuses and in classrooms. Staff will participate in developing an action plan and incorporating learned concrete strategies to support the social-emotional needs of our students in the learning environment. Additionally, all staff will be trained on the basics of traumatic experiences and the impact on a child's development, behavior, and overall school functioning.

### **Health and Safety Guidelines**

As always, our top priority is the safety of our students, families, and staff. All TCS health and safety protocols are subject to change as updated guidance is provided by the Texas Education Agency (TEA), governing authorities, and county health officials.

Trinity Charter Schools will focus on ensuring all students, staff and parents are educated on health and safety protocols and good hygiene practices, including frequent and thorough

handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes, and social distancing to the extent feasible, using the district and campus websites, social media, email, and building signs

All classrooms will be provided with an alcohol-based sanitizer spray and paper towels for sanitizing desks and technology.

TCS will ensure face mask are available to all teachers and staff, if needed. Visitors will be encouraged to make an appointment to meet with campus staff.

TCS will follow current CDC Guidelines:

If Staff test positive for COVID-19, stay home for at least 5 days and isolate from others in your home.

You are likely most infectious during these first 5 days.

- Wear a high-quality mask if you must be around others at home and in public.
- Do not go places where you are unable to wear a mask. For travel guidance, see CDC's Travel webpage.
- Do not travel.
- Stay home and separate from others as much as possible.
- Use a separate bathroom, if possible.
- Take steps to improve ventilation at home, if possible.
- Don't share personal household items, like cups, towels, and utensils.
- Monitor your symptoms. If you have an emergency warning sign (like trouble breathing), seek emergency medical care immediately.