

# Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

## Addendum Guidance

**2022-2023**

LEAs are required to update the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan every six months through **Sept. 30, 2023**. Each time, local education agencies (LEAs) must seek public input on the plan and any revisions and must take such input into account. The purpose of the plan is to keep stakeholders informed.

Every LEA should complete the addendum and upload it to ePlan in the LEA document library and post it to the LEA's website (Feb. 15 and Sept. 15). Like the development of the plan, all revisions must be informed by community input and reviewed and approved by the governing body prior to posting on the LEA's publicly available website.

Please consider the following when completing the addendum:

- Ensure the LEA used multiple models of engagement offered to stakeholders. Examples may include surveys, in-person or virtual committee meetings, town hall meetings, or other inclusive engagement opportunities.
- LEAs should engage all applicable groups noted in meaningful consultation during the crafting of the plan and when making any significant revisions or updates to the plan.
- The number of stakeholders engaged should represent the composition of students. For example, if students with disabilities make up 15 percent of students, then 10-20 percent of respondents should represent this subgroup.
- Ensure the stakeholder engagement happened prior to the development/revision of the plan.
- The LEA must engage the health department in the development and revision of the plan. This is different from providing the health department with COVID-19 numbers.
- Plans must explicitly address every bullet point in Question 3 regarding district policies and strategies.
- Plans require local board approval and public posting.
- LEAs must update the *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan* at least every six months through Sept. 30, 2023, seek public input on the plan and any revisions, and take such input into account. All revisions must include an explanation and rationale of why the revisions were made.
- All revisions must include an explanation and rationale, with meaningful public consultation and in an understandable format. The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires LEAs to post their Health and Safety Plans online in a language that parents/caregivers can understand, or, if it is not practicable to provide written translations to an individual with limited English proficiency, be orally translated. The plan also must be provided in an alternative format accessible, upon request, by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

## Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan Addendum

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. Funding provided to states and local educational agencies (LEAs) helps safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the nation's students.

In the fall of 2021, LEAs developed and made publicly available a Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan. All plans were developed with meaningful public consultation with stakeholder groups. LEAs are required to update the plan every six months through Sept. 30, 2023, and must seek public input on the plan and any revisions and must take such input into account. LEAs also must review and update their plans and ensure they align with any significant changes to CDC recommendations for K-12 schools. Like the development of the plan, all revisions must be informed by community input and reviewed and approved by the governing body prior to posting on the LEA's publicly available website.

The following information is intended to update stakeholders and address the requirement.

LEA Name: Trousdale County

Date: 09/15/2022

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### **1. Describe how the LEA has continued to engage in meaningful consultation with stakeholders in the development of the revised plan.**

Through parent conferences, teacher meetings, health meetings, and principal meetings, stakeholders including parents, teachers, nurses, principals, and district leaders have overwhelmingly indicated their preference to return to traditional and in-person learning for the 2022-23 school year. Input from these groups continue to provide the foundation of our in-person return to school model. However, the district continues to provide one-to-one devices for all students in grades K-12 in case students are quarantined or for emergency school closures. In 2021-22, the district has also used its remote learning plan to transition to remote instruction by requesting a waiver from the Commissioner of Education. The school health department, school nurses, and principals advise the Director of Schools when transitions to remote instruction become practical.

### **2. Describe how the LEA engaged the health department in the development of the revised plan.**

The Coordinated Health Department in consultation with the school nurses consistently communicates on an as need basis with the local Department of Health about COVID and other disease causing pathogens that affects both staff and student attendance. Presently, neither our school nurses nor the health department quarantine staff or students as decision is left to families and their physician.

**3. Provide the extent to which the LEA has updated adopted policies and a description of any such policies on each of the following health and safety strategies.**

<i>Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies</i>
The same health and safety protocols that are provided all students are provided to student with special needs and disabilities with increased monitoring of asthmatic students.
<i>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</i>
Presently, the school district protocols no longer include physical distancing, podding, or mandatory masking. Protective masking of staff and students is optional via school board policy.
<i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</i>
Health protocols provide frequent handwashing opportunities for students throughout the school day. Electric air hand dryers have been installed in all facilities replacing paper towels to promote safer handwashing etiquette. Protective masking of staff and students is optional via school board policy. Although schools no longer require masking, teachers foster an environment where masking decisions are respected.
<i>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation</i>
Restroom facilities are cleaned and disinfected throughout the school day and after each class exchange. HVAC at all schools have recently been renovated during the past five years that meet fresh air requirements. New windows have been installed at the middle school to enhance fresh air ventilation.
<i>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</i>
With new state laws and Department of Health Guidance, schools are no longer isolating and quarantining staff and students as it has now become one's "personal responsibility" per the TN Department of Health.
<i>Diagnostic and screening testing</i>
Through the Epidemiology Laboratory Capacity (ELC) grant, the district provides <u>optional</u> COVID screening for employees. And, is prepared to resume its screening facility should cases increase.
<i>Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible</i>
The district does not require vaccinations of employees nor does the district solicit vaccination information from its employees.
<i>Universal and correct wearing of masks</i>
The district does not require the wearing of protective masks for either staff nor students. However, our schools foster a climate where masking decisions are respected.

**4. Provide a current description as to how the LEA is ensuring continuity of services including but not limited to services that address students' academic needs and students' and staff's social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.**

The district's remote learning plan only requests transition to remote instruction for staff shortages due to quarantines related to COVID. As previously stated, the district's objective is to provide in-person learning every day for all students. When traditional learning becomes impractical, the district is positioned to pivot to remote instruction. The district can still continue to provide lunches to students in case of a school closure. Nurses and counselors remain available to students in the event of a school closure. Special education students are contacted daily via Google Meet by their special education teacher during remote learning days.
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