

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

Addendum Guidance

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, 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 in the LEA document library and post to the LEA's website (February 1 and August 27). 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.
- 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 of the plan. This is not the same as 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) help 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 September 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 whenever there are significant changes to the CDC recommendations for K-12 schools and to ensure the plan is current. 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: 01/31/2022

1. Describe how the LEA engaged in meaningful consultation with stakeholders in development of the revised plan.

Through parent conferences, teacher meetings, health meetings, and principal meetings, stakeholders including parents, teachers, school, and district leaders have overwhelmingly indicated their preference to return to traditional and in-person learning for the 2021-22 school year. Input from these groups provided the foundation of our return to school model that incorporates blended learning through the use of the school's learning management system. The district provides one-to-one devices for all students in grades K-12 so that they may utilize remote instruction during intermittent quarantines due to COVID. 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 with the local Department of Health about ever changing isolation and quarantine guidance that affects both staff and students. Since the passage of the new state omnibus law in November, our nurses submit recommendations for quarantining to the local health department. Our nurses are in daily communication with the local health department as well as parents.

3. Provide to 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>
Health protocols include physical distancing of 6 feet when possible in classrooms and on school buses. Elementary students are cohorted (self-contained) classrooms in grades K-3. Students in grades 4-8 are placed in pods with a little deviation as possible to mitigate COVID spread as possible.
<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 masks are made available for students everyday. Although schools can 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 all day after each class exchange. HVAC at all schools have recently been renovated during the past five years. New windows are presently being 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 a new Epidemiology Laboratory Capacity (ELC) grant that started in January 2022, the district now implements <u>optional</u> weekly COVID screening for employees.
<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, mask are provided for those who elect to wear a protective mask while 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 to address the students' academic needs, and students' and staff 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 COVID cases and quarantines. 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 has been able to pivot to remote instruction and still provide lunches to students from their respective schools. Nurses and counselors
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remain at school and are available to students during the day. Special education students are contacted daily by their special education teacher during remote learning days.