

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: Weakley County Schools

Date: **August 17, 2022**

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

2022-23 Update:

1. ESSER 3 Director, Angie Rushing has undertaken the following steps to ensure all stakeholders have had an opportunity to provide feedback on the appropriate allocation of funds: Sent surveys home with students and posted them on social media, given stakeholders regular updates at monthly meetings of the school board, administrative team and county commission. We have also met with local care providers and the health department to ensure we have the latest data and information related to Covid 19.

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

2. A close working relationship with the health department has resulted in frequent consultation by the Coordinated School Health Director and the Supervisor of nursing with the local health department to ensure the latest TNDOH/CDC guidance was understood and being followed. Two significant changes in CDC and/or TNDOH guidance were shared with the district; the first, dated 2/14/22 by the TNDOH, indicating that contract tracing would no longer be conducted by the health department. This led to the district following suite. The second major adjustment, by the CDC, was relayed following the 8/11/22 announcement regarding revisions to isolation/quarantine guidance. Again, Weakley County Schools immediately adapted to the current isolation/quarantine recommendations.

Following the latest guidance school nurses will take the lead in efforts to heighten awareness of proper hand washing and coughing etiquette. Building Entry Hand sanitizer units will be positioned on either side of entrances; all students, staff and visitors are asked to use upon entry. PPE (masks, gloves, gowns, disinfectant wipes, hand sanitizer, etc.) supplies will be available to all schools. Diagnostic testing will be available to any students and staff who are symptomatic and wish to participate. Air purifiers are available in each building and a bank of additional air purifiers are available upon request from the maintenance department.

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>
<i>The school nurse and building administrator will handle as appropriate on a case-by-case basis.</i>
<i>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</i>
<i>Recommended, not mandatory as of 2/14/22</i>
<i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</i>
<i>School nurses will take the lead in efforts to heighten awareness of proper hand washing and coughing etiquette. Building Entry Hand sanitizer units will be positioned on either side of entrances; all students, staff and visitors are asked to use upon entry.</i>
<i>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation</i>
<i>PPE (masks, gloves, gowns, disinfectant wipes, hand sanitizer, etc.) supplies will be available to all schools. Air purifiers are available in each building and a bank of additional air purifiers are available upon request from the maintenance department.</i>
<i>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</i>
<i>This was stopped following TNDOH guidance issued 2/14/22.</i>
<i>Diagnostic and screening testing</i>
<i>Diagnostic testing will be available to any students and staff who are symptomatic and wish to participate.</i>
<i>Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible</i>
<i>School nurses will provide source information regarding vaccination providers/locations</i>
<i>Universal and correct wearing of masks</i>
<i>Masks will be available at building entry points for those wishing to utilize; school nurses will be available to assist in the proper wearing of such.</i>

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.

After school tutoring programming and “Summer Scholars” programs were provided to students throughout the district to bolster academic abilities; food services and student health (nursing) services have been uninterrupted this school year and will continue.

Building administrators will continue to routinely remind students and staff of existing social/emotional/mental wellbeing resources.

Available resources include: Local community mental health providers as facilitators for EAP (Employee Assistance Program) services to staff insured through WCS; local community mental health provider developed series of podcasts, focusing on identified topics social/emotional interest for staff; SAP (Student Assistance Program) available to all WCS students. School Social Workers will continue to assist schools in addressing student/staff social, emotional, and academic needs (three Student Support Professionals were hired in February, '22 to provide additional one-one student mental/emotional support). Schools and local law emergency response agencies will continue providing the "Handle with Care" program designed to assist students who may have been exposed to a traumatic event after school hours (adverse childhood experiences). Teachers trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) may create online account, review course and complete quiz to satisfy 2-hour annual suicide prevention requirement, other traditional sources of suicide prevention and child abuse prevention/identification training resources will be provided prior to classes resuming. Signage for Vector Alert, Text-a Tip, National Suicide Prevention Hotline, Child Abuse Reporting Hotline will be provided for all schools to display throughout buildings. Support materials, information will be shared in multiple formats for distribution to parents/families included in materials prepared for student engagement.