

Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan Addendum Guidance 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 (**March 1 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: DeKalb County

Date: August 24, 2023

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

Monthly board and county commission meetings are held for public input and to inform the public of school/budget business. Teachers participate in the planning meetings so that we have input in the Health and Safety plan which includes drill down information from the classroom level in order to meet the needs of professional development, supplies and material and high expectations. As always, subgroups are thoroughly analyzed, therefore, we have special education and English as a Second Language representation on the district planning committee.

Students, parents and educators have a voice by completing a survey and submitting it to the district in order to compile suggestions/opinions for the plan. Community/stake holder members give us at the district level insight to work force activities and provide us with information about the skills needed to ensure that students are Career and College Ready. Business leaders are invited to come to the table with community involvement/outreach opportunities. By involving multiple stakeholders, many different avenues to address learning loss is explored. Parents are continuously and consistently encouraged to serve actively on the districts as well as the school's planning committee.

At each school's Open House, IEP meetings, and Parent Teacher Organization annual meetings, parents are given information about the planning process and the opportunity to sign up to serve either at the district or school level. Once the plans are approved by the state, the plans are then made public for viewing on ePlan or the district's webpage. District members share the district's plans at a board meeting which is aired on the radio and internet for the public. The community has the opportunity to comment on the revised plan from the district website.

All concerns/input are carefully considered from each stakeholder by the LEA team. Input is then cross referenced with the districts Needs Assessment. If a stakeholder or community member does not agree with a section of the plan or funding application, then he or she has the opportunity to give written or verbal input for possible edits.

On the district website, there is a form available for comments and/or recommendations for possible edits for the plan. Once the written comments are submitted, the team reconvenes in order to discuss the possibility of updating or changing the district plan. Surveys were sent to all stakeholders in order to collect all data. CLP data was compiled from teachers to gather data about what worked or did not work when we returned to school. On the surveys that were distributed, there is an open ended question and/or comments section in order to share opinions or suggestions.

The district meets with local health care providers for professional input into the revised plan in order to comply with the most recent CDC guidelines. Teachers, students, stakeholders, community members, business partners, etc. were ask to participate in a survey so we could gather and compile concerns.

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

All recommendations from our local health department are included in the revised plan. Our district liaison made regular calls to the local Health Department in order to receive the latest updates pertaining to sickness. The Health Department and district team had regular meetings when changes or modifications were made in policy or practice.

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>
Accommodations for students with an IEP is provided virtually if needed; services will be continued as stated in the IEP
<i>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</i>
Our classrooms and busses are at capacity for little or no social distancing, however, social distancing in common areas and classrooms are attempted
<i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</i>
Hand sanitizer is available in each classroom, as well as elementary teachers modeling and teaching hand washing protocol. Hand sanitizer stations are located in each building upon entering
<i>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation</i>
Along with basic cleaning, our custodians use the ionization system throughout the building. Bus drivers use the ionization system to clean busses. The water fountains have been transformed into water filling stations to cut down on the spread of germs. New units were replaced in all buildings and air handlers were replaced in one building. The system was replaced at each school including fresh air handlers at one school and plans to improve at the remaining schools using contingency money.
<i>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</i>
When information is received of a positive test, nurses and administration encourage families to follow the most recent CDC protocols. Our school system and nurses collaborate with the local health department.
<i>Diagnostic and screening testing</i>
We do not test
<i>Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible</i>
We provide information given to us, provide teachers the opportunity to leave in order to receive their vaccines.
<i>Universal and correct wearing of masks</i>
Mask wearing is optional. Signs are posted throughout each school displaying the correct way to wear a mask over the nose and mouth.

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.

DeKalb County practices in person learning so therefore, our continuity plan will remain as in person learning. In the event of school closures become necessary, we will revert to our district's Continuous Learning Plan that

was submitted to the state. ESSER has allowed the district to purchase additional online learning platforms for academic purposes. Guidance counselors are available for students and teachers at each school to support social/emotional and mental health