

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: West Carroll Special School District _____

Date: 1/31/22 _____

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

- open office hours
- feedback invitations posted on school website and social media
- consultation between instructional leaders and stakeholders for more specific input
- school board meeting discussions
- consultation between administration and special education department and school counselors for more specific input

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

The local health department is/was included in our Safe Return Plan in many ways. The director of schools and all school nurses are in regular contact with the local health department regarding any updated protocols for COVID-19, best practices, and recommendations. The local health department provided information/input regarding ways of better communication, the protocol for contact tracing, documentation, and relaying of information to local health authorities. Additionally, the local health department consults with the director of schools regularly to advise of local number of cases, current school phases, and safe practices for schools.

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.

<p><i>Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies</i></p> <p>Detailed plans for the medically fragile and students with exceptionalities will be created as deemed necessary on an individual basis.</p>
<p><i>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</i></p> <p>During all phases, students are expected to socially distance at all times. During phases 1 and 2, breakfast and lunch are served with social distancing in mind. Breakfast is come and go and two additional lunch shifts have been added, an additional shift for middle school and high school, for better social distancing. During all phases, students are distanced as much as possible in class, seating charts are kept, and during transitions, there is not socializing in the hallways as students are distanced traveling from one class to the next. Seventh and eighth grade classes travel from class to class in the same cohort each day. Hands-free bottle filling stations are available.</p>
<p><i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</i></p> <p>Every classroom has hand-sanitizing stations. Students are required to sanitize hands before entering and exiting an area. Students are required to sanitize hands prior to eating. Hand sanitizer is available before students enter the bus and school. Students are regularly reminded to cover mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, to dispose of the tissue properly, and to wash hand thoroughly.</p>
<p><i>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation</i></p> <p>The school will be cleaned with hospital grade disinfectants for COVID-19, which includes deep cleaning of all surfaces. All students' desks and other surfaces will be cleaned prior to each class period. Bathrooms and other common areas will be disinfected frequently throughout the day. Deep cleaning will occur on buses between routes. Regular inspections and maintenance will be performed on ventilation systems which includes upgrading HVAC systems.</p>
<p><i>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</i></p> <p>Seating charts are kept in each classroom/area in order to properly contact trace in the event someone tests positive. The school nurse conducts contact tracing and identifies those potentially exposed whether in class, on the bus, in common area, etc. Names of those who have potentially been exposed to a positive case are identified and emailed to the local health department on a designated contact tracing form which includes parental contact information, where local health officials contact parents.</p> <p>If the potentially exposed student is asymptomatic, he or she may return to school and wear a mask for ten days or he or she may remain at home in quarantine for 10 days; however, if a parent wants to quarantine the child for 5 days, get tested on day 5, (if negative) then return with mask for 5 additional days, we allow that also, which is CDC recommendation.</p> <p>A positive case must quarantine at home for 5 days and may return on day 6 if symptoms are resolved or better and fever free for 24 hrs without medication, wearing a mask days 6-10.</p> <p>After a positive case is documented, the school nurse emails the director of schools, principals, and teachers with the date symptoms began for the positive case, the exposure date for those potentially exposed, and a return to school date for all involved.</p>

<i>Diagnostic and screening testing</i>
All school employees will have their temperature taken upon arrival at school. All students will have their temperature taken upon entering the building each day. If the student is manifesting symptoms of illness or has a temperature of 100 or more, the school nurse will monitor the student and parents called for pick up. Students will follow district guidelines for returning to school.
<i>Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible</i>
COVID-19 testing and vaccinations are provided for those 12 and older at the local health department. Educators, staff, and students are allowed time off, without penalty, to be vaccinated.
<i>Universal and correct wearing of masks</i>
It is highly encouraged, but not mandatory, for everyone to wear a face covering or face shield while in contact with others except as listed in the section. <i>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine.</i>

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.

West Carroll Special School District is being proactive in efforts to ensure continuity of services for all students. We are offering remediation programs for the lower level students in primary and elementary schools for four weeks in the summer and after school during the school year and up to four weeks of credit recovery during the summer for middle and high school students. Additionally, credit recovery is being offered during the school day for the 2021-2022 school year to ensure graduation requirements are met. We have a tutoring program for grades k-12 in efforts to raise proficiency in reading and math and an academic support period for grades 9-12 to raise proficiency in reading and math. WCSDD is continuing to offer social services within the school day in an effort to reach more students who are facing challenges due to Covid-19 such as hospitalizations of family members, deaths in their families, job loss of income providers, and related life changing events. To address staff mental health, we are working on improvements in the staff lounge areas and striving to provide a comfortable and socially-distanced area for our teachers to decompress. To address student health, PPE items are available for use in each building. We are able to offer free student-friendly healthy breakfasts and lunches in the cafeteria by utilizing 5 lunch shifts which allow for adequate social distancing.