

# 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: Franklin County

Date: August 29, 2022\_\_\_\_\_

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

For the revision of the Safe Return plan, the CSH Director reached out to the local health department for updated guidelines as well as reviewing CDC guidelines for our plan for safe return. The updated guidelines were shared with the Director of Schools as well as school nurses and principals. A team of stakeholders including representatives for students with disabilities, EL students, homeless, foster and migrant reviewed the revised plan and input was given. Schools were given an overview of the plan and staff at schools were asked for input as well.

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

The CSH Coordinator worked with the local health department to ensure that the school system was doing everything possible to combat the spread of the virus. This meeting included suggestions from the health department on best ways to protect students and teachers and protocols that should be followed if there were rises in COVID positive cases.

**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.**

<p><i>Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies</i></p>
<p>The Special Education Department purchased Halosil foggers that disinfect and kill 99.99 percent of all COVID, rhinovirus, norovirus and flu for our comprehensive classrooms and special education buses to keep our immunocompromised students/classrooms as safe as possible. In addition, PPE supplies have been secured for all SPED classroom and related service providers. Furthermore, monies were utilized to purchase individual student classroom supplies to prevent cross contamination. FC schools did not opt into participation in a virtual school model. If due to COVID or any other factors, the student's health care provider/parent determines that in-person instruction is not the student's LRE, the IEP team develops the student's homebound plan keeping in mind what would be FAPE for that student; with each student's IEP plan being specific to their needs. Any student on medical homebound requires a doctor's reauthorization every 30 days to ensure that homebound is still the student's LRE.</p>
<p><i>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</i></p>
<p>Staff and students continue to practice social distancing when possible and seating charts are maintained to the extent possible.</p>
<p><i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</i></p>
<p>The CSH Director will continue to encourage schools to promote proper hand washing and encourage mask wearing when deemed necessary. Schools still have presentations available that emphasize these healthy practices. Initially funds were spent to ensure the schools had plenty of hand sanitizer for all classrooms in the buildings and offices. Due to massive surplus these supplies are still readily available.</p>
<p><i>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation</i></p>
<p>Cleaning protocols are still in place for all our schools and school buses. Franklin County Schools continues to provide additional disinfectant products such as wipes, sprays, and hand sanitizers to all schools as well as all bus drivers. With a combination of ESSER and general purpose funds, the FCSD plans to update and repair roofing as well as HVAC to schools in support of reducing allergens, airflow efficiency, cleaner environments, better air quality and unpleasant odors.</p>
<p><i>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</i></p>
<p><i>At this time, the FCSD in conjunction with the Franklin County Health Department have no plans to continue contact tracing. If COVID numbers escalate, we will revisit this decision. All students with a fever are isolated within each school until they are able to be picked up. Any students and staff with positive COVID-19 test in accordance with CDC guidelines are asked quarantine 5 days and not return until they have been without fever for 24 hours. Household contacts are asked to monitor symptoms and recommended testing after 3 days.</i></p>
<p><i>Diagnostic and screening testing</i></p>
<p>Although the FCSD administered COVID-19 testing beginning in January of 2022, after discussions with the local health department, it was decided this was no longer necessary. If there is a huge spike in positive cases, it will be recommended that students and staff with symptoms be screened at the health department.</p>
<p><i>Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible</i></p>
<p>Our local health department provides vaccinations and/or tests daily. The FCSD encourages educators, staff and students that want to be vaccinated to do so at their convenience.</p>

*Universal and correct wearing of masks*

This activity was done through a presentation that our CSH Coordinator sent out to all schools. Although masks are not mandated, students and staff are encouraged to wear them as they deem necessary.

**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 LEA has implemented TN ALL Corp to assist with learning loss in grades K-8. At the high school level, tutoring is available to all students. The LEA provides all schools with a school counselor. The FCSD purchased Care Solace through a grant to provide community based services quickly while receiving real time student status updates. A highly trained team with experience in navigating barriers to assessing mental health care is available 24/7/365. Wellness rooms for staff have been created to provide a quiet space for staff throughout the course of the school day. The FCSD continues to provides free breakfast to all students.