

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: Grainger County Schools

Date: 1/20/22

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

A Community survey and open office hours were used to engage stakeholders. Invitations to complete the survey were sent via social media, district wide call, and the GCS website. GCS students, teachers, and parents participated in a survey to provide input and gather information. GCS supervisors and principals then met to analyze feedback relating to the survey.

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

GCS supervisors used the input from all stakeholders to concentrate on needs for allocating ESSER 3.0 funds. Stakeholders ranked their highest priority of needs throughout the survey. Strong consideration was given to prioritizing those needs that most impact student achievement and the well-being of all students. Additionally, stakeholders prioritized to ensure facility upgrades were needed at certain 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>To ensure appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities regarding health and safety Grainger County Schools will work with families to understand the needs of each student. Service providers will wash hands and wear masks with students with disabilities if within 6 feet. The Grainger County Schools has provided table top dividers for students in classrooms so students can maintain distance and have a barrier from respiratory spray. After students complete work/projects all high touch surfaces and objects will be sanitized. Students will be provided direct service if possible due to student learning better in person. Grainger County Schools will adjust strategies as needed for students as prescribed by medical personnel.</p>
<p><i>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</i></p>
<p>Social distancing will be utilized as much as possible. Students will be changing classes in all the schools except for a self-contained environment. Frequent hand washing will be encouraged and access to hand sanitizer for all classes will be available. Meals will only be served in the cafeteria. Meals will not be delivered to other locations in the school unless local COVID conditions warrant distancing that requires optional locations for meals. Meals may not be served outside the cafeteria without explicit written approval by the Director of Schools.</p>
<p><i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</i></p>
<p>Respiratory Etiquette will be followed:</p> <p>The national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) urge all individuals to observe “respiratory etiquette” to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, including COVID-19, influenza (flu), colds and pneumonia.</p> <p>The principles of respiratory etiquette are simple:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing. Do this either with a tissue or your inner elbow. 2. Wash your hands frequently. This is the single most important thing you can do to stop the spread of disease. <p>· Frequent hand washing will be encouraged and access to hand sanitizer for all classes will be available.</p>
<p><i>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation</i></p>
<p>Daily cleaning and disinfection of all buildings and buses will continue. Grainger County will use funding to provide HVAC system upgrades, filtering, purification, and window and door repair.</p>
<p><i>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</i></p>
<p>Students who test positive for COVID-19 will be required to stay at home for the recommended days via CDC guidelines. Students who are household contacts of a positive case will be required to stay home (quarantine) for the recommended amount of days via CDC guidelines. If students with COVID-19 are able to participate in virtual or distance learning, attendance must be confirmed for temporary quarantine</p>

<p>periods. If students cannot participate, they will have excused absences for days missed due to COVID-19 and opportunities to make up work when they are able to return to school and/or participate in virtual instruction. Staff and students will not be sent home based on COVID symptoms! Staff and students will be quarantined only if the school team determines that they have been exposed as a household contact or have tested positive.</p>
<p><i>Diagnostic and screening testing</i></p>
<p>Temperature checks will not take place for all students daily; however, students who have symptoms or visit the nurse may have his/her temperature taken. We ask parents to monitor children health conditions and not send students to school if they have a fever or experiencing some other type of health issue. Any such absence would be unexcused without medical documentation.</p>
<p><i>Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible</i></p>
<p>Grainger County Schools and Grainger County Health Department partnered together to offer a drive-thru vaccination clinic for any employee interested in taking the vaccination. The health department also offered appointments to employees on work days.</p> <p>Students are able to set up an appointment at any time to receive their vaccination for ages 5-18 at The Grainger County Health Department.</p> <p>Booster vaccinations will be on appointment only at the local health department as needed for employees.</p> <p>Grainger County was awarded the ELC grant through TDOE and TDOH. We can provide free COVID-19 testing for all staff and students in our school system. Results are sent to a local lab with a 24 hours turn around results. This will help will with diagnosing students who need to quarantine. Contract Tracing will take place at the Central Office level between the ELC nurse and the Tennessee Department of Health. Students who only test positive or considered household contact will be required to quarantine.</p>
<p><i>Universal and correct wearing of masks</i></p>
<p>Face coverings or masks for all students and staff (PreK-12) are optional, BUT HIGHLY RECOMMENDED in the schools. Masks will be provided by the school system for both students and staff if they so choose to wear.</p>

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.

<p>Grainger County Schools are determined to remain open for in-person learning in 2021-2022. The district provided academic support for students by holding 4-week summer learning camps in June 2021. ELA and Math interventionist have been hired to provide more reading/math support to teachers/students with skill gaps in identified schools. Technology will continue to be upgraded to provide opportunities for collaboration, and a way to stay connected in the event of a short-term quarantine. GCS has committed to hiring additional teachers to help reduce class size and address learning loss.</p> <p>To address the social emotional/mental health needs of students, the district has hired a new mental health counselor through our ELC grant. ESSER funds were allocated to supplement summer school</p>
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funding so that nurses and counselors could be on hand for students. The district has continued to provide free meals for all students, and this will continue in 2021-2022.