



DISTRICT: Public Plan

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

*NOTE: If any of your answers to the following questions require additional space,
please use the supplemental blank pages at the end of this document.*

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan



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, enacted on March 11, 2021. ARPA ESSER Funding provides a total of nearly \$122 billion to states and local educational agencies (LEAs) to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the nation's students. In addition to ARP ESSER Funding, ARP includes \$3 billion for special education, \$850 million for the Outlying Areas, \$2.75 billion to support non-public schools, and additional funding for homeless children and youth, Tribal educational agencies, Native Hawaiians, and Alaska Natives.

LEAs must develop and make publicly available a *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan* that meets the following requirements within 30 days of receiving ARP ESSER allocation. If an LEA developed a plan before ARP was enacted that does not address the requirements, the LEA must revise its plan no later than six months after it last reviewed its plan. All plans must be developed with meaningful public consultation with stakeholder groups (i.e.,

families, students, teachers, principals, school and district administrators, school leaders, other educators, school staff, advocacy organizations representing student groups). The consultation process must include an opportunity for input and meaning consideration of that input. ARP ESSER plans to be in an understandable and uniform format; to the extent practicable, written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable, orally translated; and upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent. All plans must be made publicly available on the LEA's website and published on the Tennessee Department of Education's (department) website within thirty (30) days.

Please note that LEAs need to **update** the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan **at least 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. All revisions must include an explanation and rationale of why the revisions were made.

Questions in this health plan were developed by the US Department of Education.

Consultation with Stakeholders

1 Describe how the LEA will, in planning for the use of ARP ESSER funds, engage in meaningful consultation with stakeholders, including, but not limited to:

- i. students;
- ii. families;
- iii. school and district administrators (including special education administrators); and
- iv. teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff, and their unions.
- v. tribes;
- vi. civil rights organizations (including disability rights organizations); and
- vii. stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children and youth in foster care, migratory students, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students.

All stakeholder groups represented in the school and community have been engaged to provide input into the district's plans for utilizing ESSER funding. While some groups represent smaller portions of the population, the administration have made efforts to seek out stakeholders in all groups. Additionally, members of the School Board have engaged with additional community stakeholders to participate in providing feedback on the district's plans. Considerations have been given for both stakeholder suggestions and other needs related to or supporting those suggested by the stakeholders. The district's Health Coordinator continues ongoing contact with the local health department for contact tracing, plan collaboration and updates, and review of current guidance for operations.

2 Provide an overview of how the public stakeholder input was considered in the development of the LEA's plan for ARP ESSER funds.

The district was open to all stakeholder suggestions as part of funding utilization planning, including asking stakeholders to rank areas of concern. This allowed the district to determine which areas to prioritize when considering the funding allocations/availability. Additionally, these needs were compared to the Needs Assessment as part of the prioritization process. Further consideration was given to the suggestions with long-term benefits to student learning.

3 How did the LEA compile feedback during the open comment period for the ARP Plan?

Stakeholder feedback was compiled using a Google Forms survey. This was posted to the district's social media and parent communication platforms. Additionally, paper versions of the survey were available and utilized by some stakeholder groups.

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4 How was the input considered during the open comment period time?

Four areas/categories of need were identified by the district based upon a local needs assessment. Part of the open comment period asked stakeholders to consider the areas and their components. Feedback asked for both prioritizing elements of the categories and evaluating the areas/components on a scale. This allows for greater understanding of the stakeholder areas of concern and interest. Additionally, the results were compared to internal areas of priority that might be less obvious to external stakeholders. Both were taken into consideration for better funding utilization.

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction

5 Describe to the extent to which the LEA has adopted policies and a description of any such policies on each of the following health and safety strategies:

- universal and correct wearing of masks;
- physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);
- hand washing and respiratory etiquette;
- cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities,
- including improving ventilation;
- contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine;
- diagnostic and screening testing;
- efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible; and
- appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.

The district adopted a “phased” approach to each of the areas of health concerns prior to the start of the 2020-21 school year that evaluates the current level of risk and prescribes responses to be taken within the district to mitigate potential spread of illness. The phase is evaluated weekly by a district task force. This four phase document continues to be utilized for the upcoming school year with phasing being periodically reexamined for effectiveness/appropriateness. At this time, the phase system will continue to be used for the 2021-22 school year. (See Page 5 for additional information)

Continuity of Services Plan

6 How the LEA will ensure 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.

For both school closures and student quarantines, continuation of all services has been prioritized. As a 1:1 district, students can continue instructional and service engagement. District-owned hotspots continue to be available to ensure access. Additionally, the district prioritized including service personnel and food services in the decision process to allow for these services to prepare for shifts when needed. Communication of service continuation is communicated on an individual or whole-school basis, depending upon the situation. The coordinated school health (CSH) coordinator will again be in charge of tracking close contacts and positive cases within the school. All information and inquiries will be directed to the coordinator who will be in contact with the health department. She will provide a list of names of students and staff who are considered close contacts based on guidelines from the health department. Students and staff will be

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SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSES

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In addition to the previously listed information regarding Safe Return to In-Person Instruction:

- The district has adopted policies/procedures for the safe reopening to school that adhere to the most up-to-date Tennessee Department of Health Guidelines.
- The district has opted to adopt a mask mandate, as well as to practice physical distancing through the use of cohort scheduling.
- Schedules include time for handwashing and routines for cleaning of the facilities and learning spaces throughout the day. This includes the hiring of additional custodial staff (ESSER 1 and 2.0) to assist with the additional cleaning workload.
- Each classroom and learning space has been equipped with air purification equipment (purchased through ESSER 2.0).
- Cooperation between the district CSH and local health department has taken place to determine their wants and needs when it came to contact tracing and testing.
- The school has been awarded a grant that will allow our school nurse to perform PCR testing to be sent off to a lab.
- Information has been shared with both certified and non-certified staff regarding vaccination availability and local/regional locations for receiving these. Local organizations have allowed staff members to register for vaccinations with them, coordinating with the district to relay communications.
- The district has worked with students' primary care physicians and other health care providers to address individual student health and safety needs.

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SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSES *(continued)*

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