

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: Chester County Schools _____

Date: 1/21/2022 _____

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

The ESSER 3 fund proposed budget has been developed in a collaborative manner with a variety of stakeholders. The ESSER 3 Team was formed early on to begin the development of a plan. The team included educators, board members, technical experts, student social and health service advocates. The team, through multiple face-to-face meetings and digital communication, developed a proposal that was presented to a very wide variety of stakeholders through a REMIND App survey seeking feedback. Reminders of the availability of the survey were sent multiple times. Stakeholder responses were collected, grouped by topic, and shared with the ESSER 3 Team for comments and possible addition to the proposal. It was found that there were comments which were well aligned with the original proposal. Some survey proposals were found to fall outside of the scope and intent of the grant such as large sports construction projects. All school leaders, staff, and teachers were included in the survey as well as parents and students. All teacher union members were included. Individuals representing the interests of special needs students including children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children and youth in foster care. Chester County does not presently nor has there historically been migratory students served by the district, but the migrant student liaison was included in plan development. It is rare that our students are incarcerated, but district personnel who are responsible for serving incarcerated students were included. Our district does not have organized tribes or civil rights groups.

As the pandemic has continued, the Chester County Board of Education has proven to be responsive to public opinion in relation to policies related to the pandemic. Policies have been adjusted over time based on public input, changes in health department guidelines, and changes in Tennessee State Law.

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

The Director of Schools has regularly and consistently been in direct contact with representatives at the Chester County Health Department. All COVID related procedures and policies have been developed with direct input from the Chester County Health Department.

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.

<i>Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies</i>
Children with disabilities have the option of receiving services via district homebound educational services in the event that the individual's safety in relation to a documented health condition is at risk. This is the longstanding practice of the district is NOT a change in policy.
<i>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</i>
Chester County Schools has striven to adhere to the social distancing guidelines provided by the Tennessee Department of Health. There have been no changes to the overall manner in which instruction is presented, but desks are arranged to meet the guidelines presented, there is an efforted to keep student properly spaced in lines, and cafeteria spacing is designed to meet the guidelines.
<i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</i>
Instruction in proper hand washing and respirator etiquette has been revisited as needed after first being intensely presented early in the pandemic. Groups and individual students are reminded of the correct practices as needed.
<i>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation</i>
Major renovations to ventilation systems have been completed in the district. Desks are sanitized between classroom transitions. Hand sanitation stations are provided throughout all campuses. Classroom ozone machines are in place.
<i>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</i>
State guidelines in relation to isolation and quarantine have been strictly adhered to within the district. A dedicated nursing staff, which has been increased due to the pandemic, work beyond regular hours to assure that all contact tracing is completed in cooperation with the County Health Department.
<i>Diagnostic and screening testing</i>
The district offers on campus diagnostic and screening testing at no charge to all students and employees with results returned in a timely manner.
<i>Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible</i>
Accommodations have been and are in place to allow for all district employees to receive vaccinations at no charge. Accommodations are offered for eligible students to allow them access to vaccinations.
<i>Universal and correct wearing of masks</i>
As of the fall of 2021, Tennessee State law prohibits school districts from mandating the universal wearing of masks. Students and employees are free to choose to wear masks and instruction has been provided on the proper way to wear masks.

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.

Chester County Schools has a firm commitment to consistently provide the services needed by our students and staff, particularly in relation to hardships resulting from the pandemic. Early on the district elected to employ a Trauma Counselor to work on a rotating basis with all of our schools to help meet the mental health needs of our students during these trying times. It is the plan for these services to continue to be offered for at least the next two years. Our principals have exhibited a high degree of care and support for our faculty and staff during these times. The counselors are also available for employee consultations as needed. During the 2020-2021 school year the School Board relaxed the employee dress code in an effort to remove some minor challenges from employees. The School Board also almost doubled the bonuses paid out by the State last spring for our full time employees to lessen employee financial concerns as well as to express appreciation for the strong efforts of employees during these peculiar times. One of our schools has completed Trauma Informed School Training and others are in the process. In the fall of 2020, additional nurses were hired in order to assure that all of our campuses have a school nurse present for at least a part of the day each day to serve both students and employees as needed. In the fall of 2021 an additional nurse was employed to travel to each campus each week and provide health services. Another advantage of adding this position is that when a regular school nurse is absent, there will be a nurse available to cover that position who is already accustomed to the individual school's needs and processes. The addition of the three part-time nurses has proven highly valuable during times when there is a spike in COVID cases which is, at times, complicated as school nurses are required to be absent due to COVID illness or isolation. The district has also, as of the fall of 2021, offer on school site rapid COVID testing for students and faculty. Free lunches have been and continue to be provided to all students during the 2020-2021 and the 2021-22 school years. Chester County Schools is proud of the fact that we were able to provide the option of in-class instruction for all students for every instructional day during the pandemic. We plan to continue to offer in-person instruction. The district has upgraded our homebound program. Homebound students (COVID or other) receive up to 12 hours per week of distance learning instruction by their regular instructors in order to better keep them on pace with students in the classroom. Students with special needs may require face-to-face instruction when homebound or in isolation. On a case-by-case basis, a teachers is assigned to visit these students in their homes to provide instruction as the need is determined. Tutoring will continue to be offered before, after, and during school in the coming year to address learning loss. The district will be purchasing new up-to-date mathematical curricula as we continue to stress teaching to the level where students can think mathematically and understand the reasoning behind mathematical algorithms. A continuing staff development program will be geared to helping teachers meet student academic as well as social needs. The purchase of materials and equipment to address learning loss and potentially to accelerate learning in STEAM classrooms is in progress currently and hoped to be completed by the end of the 2021-2022 school year. Educational assets are also being purchased and provided in classrooms to address the learning loss needs and accelerate the learning of English Language Learners. The district CTE programs are also being worked with closely in order for the district to provide materials and equipment for those learners that will address learning loss and accelerate future leaning in votech classrooms.