

# Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan Addendum Guidance 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 (March 1 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: Cumberland County Schools

Date: February 15, 2023

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

The Cumberland County School District has continued to provide ESSER Updates during monthly Board of Education meetings in addition to surveys, conferences, and phone calls. The feedback data summary from the initial Cumberland County Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan indicated the following top five choices:

1. Facilities (additions and improvements)
2. HVAC/Ventilation
3. Additional Faculty and Staff
4. Instructional Programs
5. Build an auditorium at CCHS

#### August 2022 Update

In an effort to solicit feedback from a variety of stakeholders, the Cumberland County School District has continued to engage with stakeholders by soliciting feedback from each school (administrators, teachers, students, attendance clerks, bookkeepers, receptionists, custodians, teacher assistants, school nurses), district-wide departments (bus drivers, technology workers, food service, and maintenance workers), our ESL parents/guardians, and the general community. Data from this continued engagement has been disaggregated separately based on the various stakeholder groups. The feedback data summary from the most recent collection in August 2022 indicated the following top five concerns across the stakeholder groups:

1. Additional Faculty and Staff Added to Schools
2. Capital Outlay Projects (renovations, updates, additions, and improvements to facilities)

3. Attendance Issues Related to COVID-19
4. Quality HVAC Units for Adequate Circulation
5. Proper Cleaning and Sanitizing of Facilities

**February 2023 Update**

The findings from the most recent stakeholder survey conducted during the week of February 6, 2023, indicated little to no recommended changes from the August 2022 survey findings regarding the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan. Stakeholders were given the opportunity in the February 2023 survey to review the information and offer suggestions and/or changes to the current Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan.

**The findings from the data collection and any revisions will be presented to the local Board of Education for approval in February 2023.**

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

The Cumberland County Schools Nursing Supervisor has periodic communication with the local health department and disseminates information either electronically or in-person to school district leadership. The Cumberland County School District follows guidelines issued by CDC regarding student health and safety.

**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.**

<i>Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies</i>
<i>Students with disabilities will be provided accommodations as needed based on individual student needs and could be addressed within the Individualized Education Plan if that is determined to be the appropriate measure to be taken. Additional personal protective equipment is provided to classrooms to prevent the spread of disease.</i>
<i>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</i>
<i>There are currently no physical distancing guidelines implemented at the twelve schools in Cumberland County.</i>
<i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</i>
<i>Signage is posted near restrooms in schools about hygiene and proper hand-washing techniques. Teachers in the younger grades closely monitor student hand washing throughout the school day.</i>
<i>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation</i>
<i>School custodians clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces throughout the day. In addition, school custodians take steps to ensure all water fountains and water bottle filling stations are cleaned multiple times per day. The school district maintenance department is works to ensure proper ventilation in each classroom.</i>
<i>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</i>
<i>The Cumberland County School District does not contact trace in combination with isolation and quarantine. Students or staff should follow the instructions of their Primary Care Provider or the Tennessee Department of Health recommendations.</i>
<i>Diagnostic and screening testing</i>
<i>The Cumberland County School District does not offer COVID-19 testing.</i>
<i>Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible</i>
<i>Relevant information about vaccinations are disseminated to educators, other staff, and students as available and appropriate.</i>
<i>Universal and correct wearing of masks</i>
<i>The wearing of masks in Cumberland County Schools remains optional.</i>

**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.**

<p><b>School Schedule</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In-person instruction is provided 5 days per week.</li> </ul>
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- Parent(s)/guardian(s) are advised to please contact your child’s teacher/school to arrange a time to pick up assignments if the child must be absent due to sickness and/or quarantine per the PCP.

#### **COVID-19 Procedures**

- Masks will be provided for students and staff that wish to wear one.
- If a student is sick or exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, parents are requested to keep the student home and contact their Primary Care Provider or the Health Department.
- Students or staff should isolate (follow quarantine and isolation directions given by the Primary Care Provider or the Tennessee Department of Health) after a positive COVID-19 test following the instructions of their Primary Care Provider or the Tennessee Department of Health recommendations.
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) are advised to contact their child’s school regarding absences, medical excuses, and missed classwork.

#### **School Buildings/Procedures**

- Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff.
- Conducting cleaning of hallways and high-touch surface areas multiple times per day.
- Regular activities will be allowed.
- Safe Schools counselors are available for any student or employee needing services due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

#### **Academic Needs**

- Along with core instruction, academic needs are being met by the hiring of either a full-time Learning Loss Interventionist or two part-time Learning Loss Interventionists at each school.
- Before and after school tutoring is provided at the nine PreK-8 schools in the county through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers grant.
- TN All Corps tutors are being utilized during the school day to address deficiencies associated with learning loss.

#### **Mental Health Needs**

- School counselors and Safe Schools Counselors are available for students/staff as needed to address the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Additionally, CCS has a MOU with the following organizations to provide mental health services to students: Centerstone and Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System.
- Individual schools are also incorporating trauma-informed practices within staff development and daily operations.

#### **Health Needs**

- Each school has a full-time nurse to address health needs.
- Breakfast, lunch, and a snack are available at schools to ensure nutritional needs are met.
- Schools offer food boxes/food backpacks to students on Fridays and before breaks in the school calendar throughout the school year.
- Central Services may also provide clothing and/or food boxes upon request from individual schools to address student needs.