

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: Marion County

Date: 2/13/23 _____

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

The Director of Schools will share plans and progress. All plans will also be posted on the district's website. Along with the plans, a process for comments will be available. In January, the district conducted a stakeholder meeting to review and update all involved with the current status of the relief funding plan. In September, a survey was also uploaded to the district website and social media platforms to collect feedback. This survey is to be left open through the 2022-2023 school year. The feedback will be collected as received and analyzed by the district ESSER committee. The district will hold quarterly meetings to review and revise the ESSER plans. At this time the meetings are schedule for August 2022, November 2022, January 2023, February 2023, and May 2023. Additional meetings will be help if need. All ESSER updates will be posted on the district website and open for public comment.

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

The district continues to work with the local health department to ensure all protocols and safety precautions are followed. The district has a full time Director of Health Services who also serves to ensure all protocols and safety precautions are in place as well as updates the district and school level employees on all procedures that are to be following during peak and non-peak seasons. The local health department also provides vaccinations for all school employees and students.

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>
Not updated, maintained previous plan The previous plan included accommodations such as but not limited to allowing students to be exempt from the mask mandate due to health reasons, social distancing was enforced, frequent and regular cleaning of classroom and group area, and Zoom instruction/conferencing for students requiring virtual instruction or when quarantined.
<i>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</i>
Not updated, maintained previous plan The previous plan enforced social distancing to the greatest extent possible. In the middle and elementary grades, teachers traveled from classroom to classroom so that cohorts of students stayed together throughout the day. In high school, social distancing occurred and seating chart were updated to ensure exposure was kept to a minimal. During activities, students were encouraged to wear masks and no equipment was shared.
<i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</i>
Not updated, maintained previous plan Hand washing and respiratory etiquette was modeled in the lower grades while handing washing, sanitizing, and proper respiratory etiquette was monitoring and encouraged in the upper grade levels.
<i>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation</i>
Not updated, maintained previous plan Cleaning was mandatory of classroom teachers following any change of students throughout the day as well as three times per day when a change didn't occur. Custodial staff frequently cleaned high touch areas and used foggers once per week.
<i>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</i>
Marion County Schools followed the Governor's guidance concerning isolation and quarantine. The district will work with the health department and local health officials to contact trace but the school system will not isolate or quarantine individuals.
<i>Diagnostic and screening testing</i>
Not updated, maintained previous plan
<i>Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible</i>
Marion County Schools provided an opportunity to receive the booster on-site during the month of December 2021 for educators and other staff members and an additional booster in November of 2022.
<i>Universal and correct wearing of masks</i>
Not updated, maintained previous plan

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.

If a state of emergency is declared by the Governor of Tennessee and schools are closed, the Marion County School System will meet the students' academic needs by providing synchronous virtual instruction. The synchronous virtual instruction will be provided by using ZOOM and electronic programs. The district will provide devices and Internet access for students that need them. Student and staff emotional and mental health will be served through counseling services provided by the school or other licensed providers. Other needs will be served by providing breakfast and lunch during the closure through feeding sites that are accessible throughout the county.