

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: Chester County Schools

Date: April 7, 2023

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

1.

The ESSER 3 fund proposed budget has been developed in a collaborative manner with a variety of stakeholders. The ESSER 3 Team has participated throughout 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 included consideration of feedback from wide variety of stakeholders through a REMIND App survey seeking feedback. All 6th through 12th grade students were provided time during the school day to review ESSER related documents and provide written input relating to the plan. 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 using ESSER funds to provide teacher raises. 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 Chester County School District is supported by a regional Health Department that has oversight by the Tennessee Department of Health. The working relationship between the LEA and the regional health department has been significant during the previous years since the C-19 shut down in March 2020. Chester County Schools resumed with a regular school year (in-person learning) starting in August 2020 with the continued support of the regional health department.

In the current school year, the Chester County School District utilizes the guidance from the Tennessee Department of Health regarding the recommendations for cases and contacts that impact our school community. The school district nurses have been trained by a local medical clinic to administer C-19 tests for faster and more accurate results.

Currently, the LEA follows guidance/recommendations from the Tennessee Department of Health and Board policies for students and staff that better ensure safe and healthy operations of the schools.

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>
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 and is NOT a change in policy.
<i>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</i>
Several spaces have been modified to allow for greater social distancing. Awnings have been added as several campuses to provide for a larger area for students. More awnings are in the plans for the coming year. Also in the plans for the coming year is the expansion of the dining area at one of our schools. Students are currently attending classes in a manner which is similar to what was taking place prior to the pandemic.
<i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</i>
Chester Co. Schools continues to encourage proper hand washing and respiratory etiquette for the general health and well-being of our educators, other staff, and students. Posters are strategically placed which outline proper procedures.
<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>
Chester Co. Schools is no longer contact tracing. We do follow the Covid guidelines from the Tennessee Department of Health. Recommendations for household contacts, non-household contacts, vaccinated, and the unvaccinated are described in those guidelines which have been made available through a digital link for stakeholders. The current TDH guidelines address isolation and quarantine as "recommended", but Chester Co. Schools goes beyond that in two instances. If a staff member is a positive case, a 5 day quarantine. The day symptoms begin will be day "zero". If there is no fever or symptoms on the sixth day, the employee may return to work. Students who are a positive case must quarantine for five days. The day symptoms begin will be day zero. If there is no fever or symptoms on the sixth day, the student may return to school.
<i>Diagnostic and screening testing</i>
Chester Co. school nurses will conduct COVID testing on campus during regular school hours upon request. Tests are transported to a local health provider to determine results which are shared by the school nurses with those who chose to be tested.
<i>Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible</i>
Since vaccinations became available, Chester Co. Schools has consistently worked to provide information to educators, staff, and students pertaining to vaccinations. Time has been provided for employees to leave work in order to receive vaccinations in the past. Currently, educators, other staff, and students may choose to be vaccinated or receive booster shots.
<i>Universal and correct wearing of masks</i>

Under Tennessee State Law the mandating of the wearing of masks is prohibited. Educators, other staff, and students may elect to wear masks and are supported in do so.

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.

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. 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. Last fall we hired an additional nurse 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. Healthy breakfast and lunch meals are available for students. The district offers on school site rapid COVID testing for students and faculty. 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 throughout the pandemic. We plan to continue to offer in-person instruction. The district has upgraded our homebound program. Homebound students (COVID or other) will 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 teacher 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. Materials and equipment to address learning loss and potentially to accelerate learning in STEAM classrooms have been purchased. Educational assets are also being purchased 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 learning in vtech classrooms.