

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: McKenzie Special School District

Date: September 1, 2022

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

Feedback for our Health & Safety Plan (HSP) is sought on a continual basis and the plan is updated as changes are warranted. Our Director participates in all state, regional, and local advisory groups in order to hear all federal and state health & safety recommendations and best practices. He also consults monthly with our county health department about ways to improve our practices. He then shares updates through monthly in-person meetings with all school and district administrators. This group is comprised of building level principals and assistant principals along with the following district administrators: DOS, Federal Programs/ESSER Director, Special Education Director, Technology Director, Food Service Supervisor, and Finance Director. This group creates updates to the HSP based on current/trending building needs. When changes are warranted, the HSP is discussed with our Board of Education members, first through email, and then at their next monthly meeting, and we publically share our ideas/activities, seek feedback, and make changes as necessary. Next, we send the updated plan out to all other stakeholders and request their feedback in the following ways: first by accepting open comments through our ESSER3 email address, second by sending a survey out to all students, families, administrators, teachers, staff, board members, and community members by both email and social media, and third by holding a public meeting where everyone is invited to hear about the updates to our HSP and also our Spending Plan and provide specific feedback to the plans as interested. We are very intentional on the survey to have stakeholders self-identify as being connected to a civil rights or disability organization and/or as having a connection to a child with a disability, an English learner, a child experiencing homelessness, a child in foster care, a migratory student, or an incarcerated student. Because our subgroup categories are so small, the ESSER Director, with the help of teachers and counselors, can target identified subgroup families for feedback. For mid-year updates, one-page current HSP are sent to all stakeholders and feedback requested. A more extensive process is followed as we make plans to begin the new school year.

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

Our district, including our DOS and nursing staff, has a great working relationship with our local health department. We can pick up the phone at any time and quickly receive their guidance on any situation. We no longer use them for contact tracing/quarantine, only for consultation and best-practice suggestions. For mid-year updates, one-page current HSP summaries are sent to the Carroll County Health Department and feedback requested. This past summer, our DOS provided school nurses with with the July 29 CDC recommendations for cases and contacts.

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>
No changes. The McKenzie Special School district will continue to follow our established policies to meet the needs for children with disabilities with respects to the health and safety of our most vulnerable. Any and all accommodations necessary for students to safely and fully participate in educational activities are determined by conducting individual educational plans or 504 meetings.
<i>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</i>
No changes. The McKenzie Special School District will continue to follow our established policies on physical distancing. Our schools will continue, when situations dictate, to encourage physical distancing in classrooms and other areas of the facilities. Distancing measures will continue, when situations dictate, to be utilized in the hallways and other high traffic areas. Cohort groups will continue for scheduling to decrease contacts, if necessary.
<i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</i>
No changes. The McKenzie Special School District will continue to follow our established policies on hand washing and respiratory etiquette. Schools will continue to teach and model proper hand washing and respiratory etiquette to all students, which is a component of the beginning of the year/new semester policy and procedure training.
<i>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation</i>
No changes. The McKenzie Special School District will continue to require school staff to regularly clean high touched surfaces and objects to maintain healthy facilities within the buildings and on transportation. When purchasing new HVAC units, the maintenance department will purchase units with improved filter systems. They will also continue to clean vents, grates, ducts, etc.
<i>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</i>
No changes. The McKenzie Special School District will continue to follow CDC guidelines for contact tracing/isolation/quarantine and adjust our policies as they adjust theirs.
<i>Diagnostic and screening testing</i>
No changes. The McKenzie Special School District still does not offer diagnostic or screening testing on any of our campuses; however, our school nursing staff can assist parents and staff in finding locations to be tested.
<i>Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible</i>
No changes. The McKenzie Special School District still does not offer vaccinations on any of our campuses; however, our school nursing staff can assist parents and staff in finding locations for vaccinations.
<i>Universal and correct wearing of masks</i>
No changes. The McKenzie Special School District will continue to follow our established policy concerning the wearing of masks. We do not have a mask mandate; however, we do encourage the universal and correct wearing of masks, especially as outlined in the CDC guidelines for students/staff returning to campus following quarantine/isolation.

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.

The McKenzie Special School District is in-person for all students throughout the 2022-2023 school year. Every effort will be made to remain face-to-face unless the number of student or staff absences warrant a second glance. There is no virtual option for students as was in the 2020-2021 school year. Students who test positive for COVID-19 or who are quarantined/isolated due to contact tracing will be provided continuous academic instruction by their regular classroom teachers. In order to meet the individual needs of each quarantined student, these students may receive synchronous or asynchronous instruction from their assigned teachers. Students will utilize a district-provided Chromebook along with other hard-copied instructional materials to complete assignments to enable teachers to measure mastery of grade level standards. All teachers have been trained and provided the equipment to continue seamless learning for all students. If necessary upon returning to school, before/after school tutoring will be offered to support students who have missed days due to quarantine/isolation. Each school counselor and school nurse will provide social, emotional, and mental health supports to both students and staff as needed. Teachers are made aware of and encouraged to access free counseling through our EAP. If needed, curbside meal pick up is available to those students who are quarantined/isolated due to positive testing or contact tracing.