

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: **Elizabethton City Schools**

Date: January 14, 2022

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

After review of our Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan, ECS began the revision process by consulting with our Director of Schools and Consolidated School Health Coordinator. School administrators were given the opportunity to provide feedback at the monthly principals' meeting and they consulted with teachers at a faculty meeting. Suggested revisions were presented at the December 2021 School Board meeting with opportunity for feedback from stakeholders. Our school board meetings are open to all stakeholders including parent, school staff, students, and community leaders. These meetings are streamed live, and recordings are posted on our YouTube channel.

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

Our Consolidated School Health Coordinator considered current recommendations from the Tennessee Department of Health and the CDC while revising our Health and Safety Plan. She also consulted with officials at the Carter County Health Department and Regional Health Department for the development of the revised plan. Suggested revisions were sent to the Carter County Health Department Director for recommendations and feedback. The CCHD Director approved the proposed revisions.

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.

<p><i>Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies</i></p> <p>We expect to complete the 2021-22 school year utilizing in-person learning. Currently, there is no plan to provide a virtual option except for students in isolation or quarantine. The traditional, 5-days a week instructional model provides instruction in-person while adhering to additional safety protocols for all students. Students with Disabilities who are quarantined will to receive services in accordance with their IEP.</p>
<p><i>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</i></p> <p>The traditional, 5-days a week instructional model provides instruction in-person while adhering to additional safety protocols. Use of cohorts/podding is not part of our revised health and safety strategies.</p>
<p><i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</i></p> <p>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette continue to be highly encouraged. Hand sanitation stations are available in all buildings. Increased cleaning and sanitation of high contact areas are a priority. Parents are requested to check temperatures prior to sending students on the bus or to school. Training for staff and students on recommended healthy routines is provided as needed. Staff and students are encouraged to stay home if they are sick or running a temperature of 100.4 or greater. Face coverings are encouraged and available in all schools.</p>
<p><i>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation</i></p> <p>We continue to utilize the following procedures in our facilities. No water fountain use. Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle. Increased cleaning and sanitation of high contact areas are a priority. Increased air circulation in classrooms through windows, doors, and air purifiers (as feasible and practical). Large group assemblies are limited for essential purposes only and follow guidelines (as feasible and practical). Only academic field trips that can be conducted safely, given current conditions, are approved. Social distancing within the classroom is prioritized (where feasible and practical); six feet may not be possible in all classrooms. Schools may alter arrival and departure procedures to minimize contact and congestion, as needed. Physical activity is conducted outdoors whenever possible to group students safely.</p>
<p><i>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</i></p> <p>When a positive test for COVID-19 occurs in a school with a student or staff member, the district works with local health department officials and assists with notification and contact tracing as feasible and practical. School administrators maintain confidentiality in accordance with ADA (American Disabilities Act) and HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996). Student and staff members with COVID-19 may to return to school adhering to TDH guidelines. It is our intent for the Health Department to provide quarantine guidance to parents and staff members. Potential school closure is based on the level of risk determined by the district. Classroom/school/district closures only occur if a significant need warrants the closure or if it is mandated by the state or local health officials. If the need arises to close schools due to COVID-19, virtual learning per state guidelines will be initiated for impacted students as soon as possible. If a closure is needed for intensive cleaning, communication will be provided.</p>

<i>Diagnostic and screening testing</i>
Diagnostic testing is available to all staff members. Screening testing is available to all school nurses.
<i>Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible</i>
Vaccinations are not mandated for faculty, staff, nor students. ECS partnered with the local health department to provide after-hours vaccine clinics for convenience to school staff. ECS offered a vaccination clinic at Elizabethton High School in collaboration with the local health department and regional health system for adults and students 12 and older. Vaccines are currently available for ages 5 and older at the Carter County Health Department, local pharmacies, and regional health system.
<i>Universal and correct wearing of masks</i>
Face coverings are encouraged and available in all schools.

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.

Based on Tennessee Department of Health guidelines, Elizabethton City Schools ensures the continuity of services to address academics needs by continuing school in person the remainder of the 2021-22 school year. Based on this plan, we expect to provide all services to students and families in person in accordance with policies, statues, and all regulations. Common sense infectious disease prevention measures remain in place based on CDC recommendations and Tennessee Department of Health guidelines.

Elizabethton City Schools teaches TN State Standards in all courses and utilizes our Tier II and III intervention blocks to account for learning loss and acceleration. Subgroup services are provided per IEP/ILP. ESSER 3.0 funds enable us to mitigate learning loss by hiring additional teachers to reduce class sizes, work with more students in small intervention groups, and serve additional students in grades 1-8 through TN ALL Corps tutoring.

Our social, emotional, and mental health supports continue at each school with additional school counselors and career advisors, two mental health counselors and a school social worker. Students receive social and emotional health supports during guidance class, small group sessions, and individual counseling and advising. School nurses continue to address health concerns and conduct any necessary actions regarding COVID-19. Mental health counselors are available to all faculty and staff members as needed. Our teachers and administrators participated in “Mental Health Debriefing” sessions offered by the Tennessee Department of Health and Crisis Response Team volunteers.

Other supports for continuing services during the 2021-22 school year include the availability of free breakfast and lunch for all students.