

# 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: Lawrence County School System

Date: 1/12/22

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

Various stakeholder groups, including students, parents, school employees, and community members, were solicited through a digital survey and video meetings. Meetings and discussions have been held at all schools during Family Engagement events to gather and continue to gather feedback to determine areas of need. Lawrence County School System will continue to gather feedback through gathering with families - particularly those with English learners and special needs - through registration, enrollment meetings, community/parent advisory meetings, and other parent involvement activities during the school year. The Family Resource Center Coordinator and Student Services Supervisor are the points of contact for students experiencing homelessness, foster care placement, incarceration, and otherwise historically underserved situations. The district ESL coordinator facilitates communication and feedback with English Learners and migratory students. The district and schools utilize social media, district website, and Remind to communicate with all families and community members consistently. The Director of Schools and other district staff have engaged with community leaders during multiple meetings such as Rotary, Lawrence County Commission, and Chamber of Commerce to provide information and gather feedback. The Director of Schools engages students in regular Student Advisory meetings held throughout the year.

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

We consult with the local Health Dept Director, our local liaison and the South Central Regional Health Dept weekly. As this plan was developed, we spoke with our contact at the South Central Regional Health Dept to review what our plan was before implementing it.

**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.**

<i>Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies</i>
<i>Masks are encouraged and resources have been given on correct mask usage. When COVID-19 spread is higher, the Director of Schools may mandate staff to wear them but it continues to be parent choice for students. It is also parental choice for students to use masks at school. Teachers are also working to ensure that students are utilizing proper handwashing techniques and using hand over hand for students that demonstrate that need and use it on a regular basis in other areas of their educational day. Teachers and staff are also taking steps to disinfect, with extra efforts in the UDL and medically fragile classrooms.</i>
<i>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</i>
<i>Schools continue to use cohorts and seating charts.</i>
<i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</i>
<i>CSH has video resources for handwashing and respiratory etiquette on the LCSS website for each nurse to review with students. In January, the TN DOE granted us money for an additional COVID nurse that brings relief to our nurses during times of increased spread at a school and she will also be conducting more group hand washing and respiratory etiquette demonstrations concentrating in the K-2 grades and expanding to other grades as time allows.</i>
<i>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation</i>
<i>Nurses and Administrators continue to work with their school custodian to spray rooms where exposure has occurred. Through the ELC grant, air purifiers were purchased for all nurse clinics and 9 classrooms in our oldest building that does not have the updated air purification.</i>
<i>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</i>
<i>TN Dept of Health Guidelines for Releasing Cases and Contacts from Isolation and Quarantine is communicated through LCSS website and social media and available at every school. We continue to follow these guidelines. If there are exposures at schools, a letter is sent to parents with recommendations per the Dept of Health and a confidential list is kept with those that are in quarantine and isolation and their expected return dates. Daily reports are communicated with Director of Schools and Board of Education.</i>
<i>Diagnostic and screening testing</i>
<i>Diagnostic and screening testing is available for all LCSS employees through the ELC grant. We defer diagnostic and screening tests for students to their primary care provider at the request of our medical director and other medical professionals in our community.</i>
<i>Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible</i>
<i>We have offered 2 COVID vaccine and booster clinics for employees and a flu clinic as well for students and employees. We have given guidance on where COVID vaccines are available for parents that are interested in vaccinating their children for COVID-19. This remains parent driven and a parent's choice.</i>
<i>Universal and correct wearing of masks</i>

*Masks are encouraged and resources have been given on correct mask usage. When COVID-19 spread is higher, the Director of Schools may mandate staff to wear them but it continues to be parent choice for students.*

**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.**

Tutoring is available at all schools, AWARE, our mental health program is promoted and offered to students. Resources on SEL and mental health is provided to employees via the Coordinated School Health Newsletter. EBT cards have been given to students who are in quarantine or isolation. Food boxes were given in December to families referred to school counselors and coordinated through our Family Resource Center Director.