

# Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan Addendum Guidance 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 (March 1 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: **Lawrence County School System**

Date: **8/21/23**

---

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

We are in consultation with our local physicians offices and our medical director along with other stakeholders to keep an eye on rising cases. We collect feedback from our nurse clinics to make sure we monitor when spikes are occurring. Mr. Adkins gives weekly updates to the Board members and they have two way communication with him providing feedback from community members. We keep our website up to date on any changes that might occur with safe return plans. The Family Resource Center Director, District Social Workers 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. The Director of Schools and other district staff have engaged with community leaders during multiple meetings such as Kiwanis, Rotary, Lawrence County Commission, and Chamber of Commerce to provide information and gather feedback. The Director of Schools continues to meet with students and staff during Student and Staff Advisory meetings held throughout the year. We also have a Coordinated School Health /Family Resource Center Advisory Board that helps provide feedback .

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

We have a Health Dept representative on our Coordinated School Health/Family Resource Center Advisory Board. We also are very active in the Health Council in our community and have a great relationship with our Health Department Director who continues to be available when we call to discuss any alternative plans that may be needed.

**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>
<p>This has been reviewed but we continue to follow the same strategies.</p> <p>Masks are encouraged but not mandatory. Correct mask usage and hand washing techniques have been shared on social media, in newsletters and bathroom flyers. The Director of Schools works closely with Coordinated School Health and the Safety Officer who work closely with local agencies and the Health Dept. When COVID-19 cases start rising , the Director of Schools may mandate staff to wear them but it will be parent's choice for students. It is also a parental choice for students to use masks at school. Teachers and school nurses are also working to ensure that students are utilizing proper handwashing techniques. All plans for students will be adjusted as needed to ensure that students are receiving FAPE.</p>
<i>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</i>
<p>Schools continue to encourage one way hallways and desks/tables spread farther than they once were.</p>
<i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</i>
<p>Although our CDC grant expired, we continue to educate through our nurses on proper handwashing and how to properly cough and sneeze. We still have materials available through our grant to continue this education. Videos are on our LCSS website under Coordinated School Health and can be used in classrooms for further education.</p>
<i>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation</i>
<p>Although this is the same, we have reviewed this section and continue with these guidelines.</p> <p>Teachers and staff are taking steps to disinfect tables and classrooms daily. Disinfectant wipes are available in all classes to allow students to help disinfect their desks as well. Nurses, along with Coordinated School Health and Safety discuss and coordinate rooms to be sprayed if there is a high number of cases in a classroom. Air purifiers are still maintained in the nurses office and in each room of the oldest building in the system.</p>
<i>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</i>
<p>TN Department of Health Guidelines from October 2022 are on the LCSS website under Coordinated School Health. We seek guidance from the student's medical provider on the return date for a COVID case.</p>
<i>Diagnostic and screening testing</i>
<p>We no longer have COVID testing available for LCSS employees. This went away when the ELC grant was complete.</p>
<i>Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible</i>
<p>There were two COVID vaccine clinics in 2020/2021. Now, anyone seeking a vaccine, we encourage them to visit the Lawrence County Health Department for a vaccine or booster. This is a very quick process for everyone.</p>
<i>Universal and correct wearing of masks</i>
<p>Masks are not mandatory but we support parents' choice if their children would like to wear one. We have masks available for any staff or student needing one.</p>

- 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.**

Tutoring continues to be available at all schools. We have hired 2 additional district social workers (Bachelor's Level) and now have 5 Master's level staff that can provide school-based therapy services in house instead of utilizing an MOU with an outside agency.. These staff members are school system employees which should reduce turnover and provide consistency with student mental health care needs. We continue to offer Breathe For Change mindful movement for students in PE. Capturing Kid's Hearts training continues for all of the new Elementary and Middle School staff to provide a common language and tools for teachers to help de-escalate and redirect students when heightened emotional situations may arise. The Family Resource Center provides food boxes and other needs the family is seeking during illness or other difficult times.. Food Service continued with providing lunches free of charge this year. EBT cards were given to families that experienced COVID last year.