

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: Sweetwater City Schools _____

Date: 2/10/22 _____

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

Several methods were used in order to attain input from the school system's stakeholders. The original recommendations focused on improving school buildings (HVAC in schools and cafeterias, gym floors, parking lots, bathrooms), technology (upgrading Active Panels, better chromebook management system, access to online learning) and instruction (different computer programs, textbooks- so all students can have their own and be able to take them home, improved communication with teachers- particularly, if a child has to be home due to quarantining and/or school closure). Many of these items were included in the budgets. Since there have been amendments to the ESSER budgets, there have been regular conversations with the school system's stakeholders (community members, board members, school administration and teachers and families). As the year continues to progress, another survey will be posted (with the hope of attaining more input) and principals and teachers will be asked for additional input. The executive PTO board meets quarterly and the topic has been regularly included at these meetings as well.

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

The Coordinated School Health Coordinator continues to be the main contact regarding anything related to COVID-19. She and the ESSER Point of Contact person are also in regular contact regarding the development of the spending plan and then she communicates the information to the health department. Coordinated School Health Coordinator, along with health department director, local hospital, physician offices, red cross, TEMA, police and fire, county mayor, county school district, directors of school, nursing home director meet each Tuesday to review covid stats, hospital numbers, school numbers, best practices, updates, and concerns.

During these meetings, the Coordinated School Health Coordinator also updates the rest of the team on the school system’s needs and ESSER spending plan. Any additional suggestions by the medical personnel were considered when revising the budget for any of the plans. This practice will continue to be followed throughout the time ESSER funds are being allocated and spent.

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>A discussion included how these funds could benefit the overall student population as well as the different subgroups. It was recommended that the feedback focus on the loss of learning impact as well as social, emotional and instructional loss of learning. In order to further accommodate for students with disabilities, the school system has budgeted an additional special education teacher at each school to ensure smaller class sizes when these students receive their services. Also, if any student with a disability has difficulty wearing a specific kind of mask, efforts are made to find a kind that they may be able to tolerate. If nothing works, then efforts are made to ensure that the student remains socially distant from other children at all times.</p>
<p><i>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</i></p>
<p>The school system's classrooms maintain 3 feet between students and 6 feet between students and teacher. The use of seating charts has continued to be used to assist with social distancing and contact tracing. The school system also included in the budget funds to upgrade the school system’s promethean boards to the Boxlight technology. The new technology allows multiple students to participate in the interactive activities in their own space. It was determined that this is more important now with the continuing concerns related to the increase in COVID-19 cases.</p>
<p><i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</i></p>
<p>Teachers are continuing to regularly clean desks throughout the day and prompt students to routinely wash their hands and use hand sanitizer. In order to help prevent the spread of germs, students are regularly reminded to use the following practices: To cover their mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, to throw used tissues in the trash and, if they don't have a tissue, to cough or sneeze into their elbow, not their hands. Furthermore, they are encouraged to wash their hands everytime they cough or sneeze. Each school nurses' office is wiped down after every student- regardless of the reason for the student's visit to the office.</p>
<p><i>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation</i></p>
<p>All of the proposed facility upgrades (ESSER 2.0 and 3.0) have been designed to create more energy efficient and healthy school environments. Furthermore, funds from ESSER 1.0 were used to purchase items that allowed for social distancing (plexiglass dividers and water coolers) and cleaning/sanitizing products. In order to assess the effectiveness of the upgrades as well as the regular, thorough cleaning, the school system's attendance rate will be reviewed throughout the school year as well as from one year to the next for several years. The goal is to reduce the absenteeism rate related to student and/or school personnel illness.</p>
<p><i>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</i></p>
<p>The teachers send close contacts to an assigned chain at their school, each including the Coordinated School Health Coordinator. She then sends those names to the regional health department (not local) for them to issue return dates if applicable for both the positive case and the close contacts at school. Who is responsible for what-- Coordinated School Health Coordinator collects names and contacts and sends to Knoxville "school team" who contacts families based on information that is given them. School secretaries are responsible for giving the Coordinator those names. Teachers are responsible for giving secretaries those names. The school</p>

<p>system no longer sends home quarantine letters and is not permitted to keep a student home based on a COVID-19 test alone, though it is highly recommend and expected that parents will be forthcoming with a positive diagnosis and appropriately documented isolation and quarantine protocol. School clinics can only respond to symptoms and if students or staff members present symptoms (including temperature, gastrointestinal distress, or a severe cough or cold symptoms) and they will be advised to go home. Accepted COVID-19 absences will occur for families who provide one of the following 1) a positive COVID-19 test result from a medical professional 2) documentation of being a household close contact written by a medical professional or technician, 3) a photo of a positive at-home test with the name of the positive case. The district will honor all self-selecting quarantines of up to 5 days for positive cases and household contacts as recommended by the Tennessee Department of Health. Masks are strongly recommended for an additional 5 days after a positive COVID-19 diagnosis or household close contact exposure, however Sweetwater City Schools abides by the governor’s order of no mask mandates.</p>
<p><i>Diagnostic and screening testing</i></p>
<p>Sweetwater City Schools now offers COVID-19 testing free of charge to students and staff.</p>
<p><i>Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible</i></p>
<p>Sweetwater City Schools now offers COVID-19 testing free of charge to students and staff. The Director of Schools had coordinated with the Monroe County Health Department to schedule times for all school personnel to get the first and second vaccinations in Spring 2021. When the booster shot was available, the Director communicated this to all school personnel in order to ensure that everyone knew they were eligible to have the booster.</p>
<p><i>Universal and correct wearing of masks</i></p>
<p>The regular use of a mask by all school system personnel, students and families is strongly encouraged. However, Sweetwater City Schools abides by the governor’s order of no mask mandates. There are signs posted around each school that show the proper way that masks should be worn and teachers routinely remind children of the correct placement of the mask.</p>

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.

The Director of Schools and school administrators are working diligently to ensure that the schools will remain open throughout the 2021-2022 school year. With this being the goal, all school personnel will continue to address each student's academic, social/emotional and mental health needs according to the spending plan for ESSER 1.0, 2.0 and 3.0. The Coordinated School Health supervisor promotes healthy schools programs throughout the year and works hard to ensure that students receive information relating to health education (such as, hand washing, sun safety, good foods and exercise). The Food Services supervisor also ensures that each student has a healthy breakfast and lunch.