

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: Hardin County Board of Education

Date: January 28, 2022

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

The initial ESSER 3.0 plan was developed with input from a variety of stakeholders. Consultation with stakeholders occurred in the following ways regarding use of ESSER 3.0 funds:

- Leadership Meetings
- Monthly Principal Meetings
- Faculty Meetings with teachers and support staff
- Surveys for administration, teachers and support staff
- Surveys on the district website and Facebook page for anyone to complete
- Surveys completed by high school students
- Surveys sent home to parents to complete and send back
- Director of Schools works closely with the Hardin County Health Department Director
- Public School Board Meetings
- Director of Schools attends County Commission Meetings and other community meetings
- District ESSER 3.0 Stakeholder Meeting - This included representation for EL, Homeless, and Special Education students
- Counselors, social workers, nurses, the Homeless Liaison, and others will continue to reach out to students and families to assist in assessing their needs.

The LEA is keeping stakeholders informed by placing all planning documents regarding ESSER 3.0 on our district website.

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

The Coordinated School Health Director is in constant communication with the local health department on COVID-19 guidance and reporting of cases. The Director of Schools communicates frequently with the local public health county director to make changes to any health and safety strategies.

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>
Our district continues to work with parents who don't feel comfortable sending their children to school, due to health conditions, and we will continue to do so. Our special education supervisor and teachers will continue to reach out to families to ensure the success of our students with disabilities.
<i>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</i>
The Director of Schools will encourage, to the extent possible, all schools to continue to social distance in situations where it's possible. Some schools added additional lunch blocks so students could space out more. Some schools also used the library and other rooms during lunch to provide more space.
<i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</i>
Handwashing etiquette will continue to be discussed at all schools during announcements and through the use of signage throughout the schools and in the restrooms. Also, hand sanitizer will continue to be in our schools.
<i>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation</i>
The county purchased sanitizing sprayers for classrooms and they will continue to be used as needed. Our schools are thoroughly cleaned each and every day. Work is being completed to replace leaky roofs and old HVAC systems, which will dramatically help improve ventilation in our schools.
<i>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</i>
The district will continue to have isolation rooms in schools. We have a school nurse in all seven schools. We will contact trace in all classrooms and quarantine as needed. School nurses are the ones who are doing the contact tracing. Every school has seating charts. When there is a positive case, the seating charts are looked at to see who the close contacts are. If the close contacts have been positive within 90 days, were wearing a mask, have had the vaccine or booster within the last 6 months, they don't have to quarantine. If not, a list of close contact are compiled. School nurses then contact the parents to let them know their child has been exposed, but there is no action on their part. If the parent chooses to quarantine their child, the nurse gives them guidance. The school nurses send a list of positive students and quarantined students to Hardin County's Coordinated School Health Director, and then she is responsible for filling out a report on every positive case and all close contacts and emails the reports to the Health Department daily, if possible. The report contains the student's name, date of birth, parents' names, phone number, and date of exposure. The health department may then contact the parent.
<i>Diagnostic and screening testing</i>
We do not do screening testing at school.
<i>Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible</i>
The district will continue to work with the local health department to offer all faculty and staff vaccinations and/or boosters. Our district moved essential workers to the top of the list, so a large percent of our employees have been vaccinated. The health department has also offered vaccinations to students of age.
<i>Universal and correct wearing of masks</i>
The district never had a mask mandate, but highly suggested masks be worn. We will continue to support the wearing of masks for any teacher, staff member, or student who wants to wear one. We also provide masks in all of our 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.

The district will ensure continuity of services by offering multiple supports and services. These services are for students receiving in-person instruction, but are also for students who are sick with COVID or may be quarantined due to COVID. The services and supports are:

- *providing meals to students, through our school nutrition program, for students who are quarantined
- *school counselors, social workers, teachers, administrators, and others will reach out to students and families to see what needs they have
- *the district homeless liaison will ensure that students classified as homeless are receiving a consistent and stable education and provide assistance and community resources as needed (for example: Our Daily Bread Food Pantry, Jesus Cares, The Table (where people can eat for free), etc.
- *provide intensive after school tutoring to address learning loss
- *our district has hired three additional social workers with ESSER 3.0 funds to address whole child needs
- *provide summer school
- *provide STREAM Camp in the spring 2022 for student acceleration
- *more Google Classroom and other training for teachers on new materials or other needs they may have
- *compensate teachers with stipends for attending PD outside their contracted work day
- *purchase a cloud-based system for school nutrition so students don't have to key in lunch numbers. It also allows for student lunch choices to be entered from an iPad by the school nutrition staff. If there is a variant and we have to space out for lunch again, the school nutrition staff can go to the areas where students are eating and key in their choices. Also, before when we had a server and it went down, students had to stand in line and wait for their lunch choices to be written down. Also, student food allergies will always be available through the cloud-based system.
- *all students in grades 3-12 have a Chromebook to take back and forth to school each day
- *continue to have Hotspots at Hardin County High School and West Hardin and make mifi available to some students