

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: Hardin County Schools

Date: September 15, 2023

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

Consultation with stakeholders has occurred in the following ways regarding use of ARP ESSER funds:

- Leadership Meetings
 - Monthly Principal Meetings
 - Faculty Meetings with teachers and support staff
 - Survey for administration, teachers and support staff
 - Survey 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
- N/A Tribes
N/A Migratory
N/A Children who are incarcerated

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

Hardin County Schools continues to seek guidance from the Hardin County Health Department to ensure we are doing our part within reasonable measures to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. The local health department keeps our district up to date with all TN Department of Health and CDC Guidelines.

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>
Our district has worked with parents who didn'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>
Director of Schools will encourage, to the extent possible, all schools to continue to social distance in situations where it's possible. The students are participating in traditional class schedules and class sizes.
<i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</i>
Handwashing etiquette will continue to be discussed at school with signage to remind students to wash their hands. 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.
<i>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</i>
Hardin County Schools continues to follow the guidance of the Tennessee Department of Health releasing cases and contacts. With a confirmed case of COVID-19, the school nurse recommends for the positive case to isolate for a minimum of 5 days, according to CDC guidelines, after onset of symptoms. A doctor's excuse or a picture of a positive at home test with the student's name must be received to confirm infection. The first day of symptoms is day 0. The positive case may return to school and school activities on day 6, as long as he/she is fever free for 24 hours and symptoms are improving. The school nurse will explain that it is best practice and CDC recommended that a mask be worn days 6 through 10. The school nurses are no longer contact tracing at school when notified of a confirmed COVID-19 case. The latest update from the TN Department of Health states that quarantine is no longer required for nonhousehold contacts. Students who live with someone who has a confirmed case of COVID-19 are able to attend school as usual as long as they are free from any symptoms of COVID-19.
<i>Diagnostic and screening testing</i>
Our district does not do COVID testing at our schools, but the Hardin County Health Department will provide free take-home tests to families as available.
<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. A large percent of our employees have been vaccinated. The health department has also offered vaccinations to students of age with parental consent.
<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.

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.

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:

- *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
- *continued use of our social workers that were hired with ESSER 3.0 funds to provide supports to our students and families
- *provide summer school again next summer
- *more training for teachers on new materials or other needs they may have
- *compensate teachers with stipends for attending PD outside their contracted work day
- *use our cloud-based system for school nutrition that was purchased with ESSER 3.0
- *continue to provide students in grades 3-12 with a Chromebooks and students in grades K-2 with Chrome Tablets
- *continue to have Hotspots at Hardin County High School and West Hardin and make mifi available to some students