

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: Weakley County Schools

Date: 08/30/23 _____

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

Stakeholders' opinions have been obtained through multiple formats including, but not limited to surveys, conversations with building/district administration, comments shared on the district's anonymous tip site, parent/teacher communication, other student related (i.e. I.E.P/504) meetings, etc.

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

WCS relies heavily on our local health department. Regular communication, by phone, email or in-person discussions occur. The current plan reflects their input in addition to that provided by the TNDOH, CDC, the American of Pediatricians and the governor's executive orders.

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>
<i>WCS' initial response to the pandemic included thoughtful and thorough considerations for how students with disabilities would be impacted. That being done, health and safety strategies have been enacted which are appropriate and safeguard the provision of FAPE. These students are included in being encouraged to follow overall protective recommendations while also adhering to accommodations listed in IEPs, IHPs or 504 plans.</i>
<i>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</i>
<i>Physical distancing is still being followed to the extent possible in individual schools. Pods and seating charts are still utilized where appropriate.</i>
<i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</i>
<i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette is still being emphasized through nurse/teacher/administrator instruction; educational announcements and graphic posters are also employed to increase awareness and participation.</i>
<i>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation</i>
<i>Administrators consult with custodial staff routinely and additional cleaning is completed as indicated. Disinfectant wipes and sparys, as well as gloves, are provided to schools for classroom use. Portable air purifier units were purchased at the start of the school year; additional units were purchased and distributed to schools in January of 2022. These units are placed in nurses' offices and classrooms as needed. WCS Maintenance staff have an additional bank of purifiers which may be deployed to campuses as needs arise.</i>
<i>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</i>
<i>Due to state law, schools no longer contact trace; however, nurses do encourage students (parents) to speak with their physician regarding isolation/quarantine best practices. Nurses may also give our copies of the latest isolation/quarantine guidance provided by the TNDOH to students and parents.</i>
<i>Diagnostic and screening testing</i>
<i>WCS began COVID-19 (PCR) testing of symptomatic students and staff January 2022. Signed consent forms are obtained from all participants (parent/guardian signatures for underage students).</i>
<i>Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible</i>
<i>Information regarding availability and locations to obtain vaccinations, including booster shots, has been shared and/or distributed throughout the district.</i>
<i>Universal and correct wearing of masks</i>
<i>Masks are strongly encouraged when needed.</i>

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.

WCS has afterschool scholar programs on every campus in the district. These programs will assist students to address academic gaps which may have developed as a result of the interruptions (absences) caused by COVID-19 related/impacted/exacerbated illnesses. Additionally, to address the noticeable increase in social, emotional and mental health issues exhibited by students, WCS has hired five student support professionals. These individuals each have backgrounds in trauma informed care and crisis response. They will be work throughout the district providing individual support, staff development, transition services and building referral networks. Coordinated School Health added a Weakley County School Food Pantry that is available to all staff and students throughout the year. CSH also completed health screenings, which included blood pressure, hearing, vision, and color vision on every student grade pre-kindergarten to 10th grade.