

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:

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.

The Rogersville City School System has utilized different methods to engage in consultation with a variety of stakeholders to develop a plan of how to best expend ARP ESSER funds to support all students, faculty, and staff. The District Leadership team consisting of school leaders - principal and assistant principal, director of schools, instructional coaches, technology director, food services director, financial director, data and testing coordinator, EL coordinator, federal programs director, special education director, coordinated school health director, maintenance supervisor, SRO, and teacher teams meet regularly throughout the school year. The teams meet to assess student academic progress and attendance to monitor the effectiveness of our practices. Parents are engaged through open-house activities and/or membership in our Parent Action Committee (PAC). Agencies such as the local Hawkins County Health Department, CDC, Tennessee Health Department, Town Council, local medical and support personnel are utilized by the district.

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

After completing the needs assessment for the district, survey results, email comments and conversations with stakeholders were documented and analyzed for trends that directly addressed the priority needs identified for the district and individual grade bands district wide. During the development of the ARP ESSER plan, multiple sources of data were utilized and analyzed for maximization of the impact of funding allocated in multiple areas. Then in conjunction with trend data, year-to-year projections from the Rogersville City planning commission, and year-to-year analysis of district-wide data; our Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan was created and modified, as needed, biannually.

RCS used the feedback collected through engagement opportunities to review existing budget items and proposals to determine if there were any gaps that could be filled in the final ESSER plan. Our Coordinated School Health Coordinator (CSH) worked with the local health department to ensure that the school system was doing everything possible to combat the spread of the virus. Meetings included suggestions from the health department on the best ways to protect students and staff and protocols were updated as they occurred.

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>
RCS has purchased an electric sprayer for each classroom. These sprayers can be filled with an approved disinfectant (purchased by the school). Sprayers can be utilized daily. RCS utilizes sanitation wipes in every classroom and/or other student area. Every student's needs are different. RCS will approach each SWD or student with a 504 in a manner that is conducive to preventing cross contamination.
<i>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</i>
To the extent possible, physical distancing will occur. Hallway flows have been adjusted to allow for quick transitions. Classrooms continue to have seating charts.
<i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</i>
The CSH Coordinator will revise and distribute protocol throughout the year to denote proper handwashing, wearing (by choice) masks appropriately, social distancing measure, and information concerning how the virus is spread.
<i>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation</i>
Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned regularly within the school buildings. These include playground equipment, door handles, sink handles, bathroom fixtures, and desks/tables.
<i>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</i>
Contact tracing and the identification of positive cases will follow recommendations from our local Health Department. All students and staff with symptoms are asked to monitor their symptoms. Our CSH Coordinator will continue to lead the process.
<i>Diagnostic and screening testing</i>
The CSH and school nurse started COVID-19 testing for symptomatic students and faculty. Funding for these tests will be funded through the <i>Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity</i> grant (ELC). After this funding has been extinguished, students and staff may continue to access our medical staff to evaluate for symptoms such as fever, cough, etc.
<i>Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible</i>
The CSH Coordinator and school nurse started COVID-19 testing for symptomatic students and faculty. Funding for these tests was funded through the <i>Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity</i> grant (ELC). This funding has been extinguished, students and staff may continue to access our medical staff to evaluate for symptoms such as fever, cough, etc.
<i>Universal and correct wearing of masks</i>
Information and protocol for wearing masks will continue to be led by the CSH. Currently, mask wearing is optional for the individual.

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.

RCS will implement and continually assess school safety and continuity, as the two go together, during COVID spikes. RCS intends to collaborate with our local health department to ensure best practices are implemented. Our Director of Schools and our Coordinated School Health Director are in contact with state and local agencies to ensure the information RCS has been the most current and reliable information as decisions are made. The district provided academic support for students by holding a four-week summer camp in June 2023. We are participating in 'On-Track' and TN All Corp tutoring programs that focus on grades first through eighth grade. The district has allocated relief funds to purchase high-quality evidence-based Reading and Math RTI intervention programs. Student and staff technology is currently 1:1 and continues to be upgraded to provide opportunities for collaboration and global connections as well as a means for students to be connected to school and their teachers in the event of a short-term quarantine.

To address the social emotional/mental health needs of students, the district has developed a program in which students will have access to an alternative learning environment that allows for smaller grouping in some or all academic subjects. Additionally, this environment is for students that may have difficulty transitioning back into a school setting from COVID closures and illness. The school counselor will attend collaboratives and gauge programs or resources that may be considered at RCS. We plan to engage in regional and state Mental Health training and consortiums.