

# **Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan**

## **Addendum Guidance**

**2022-2023**

**SPRING 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 (Feb. 15 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: Sequatchie County Schools

Date: March 1, 2023

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

<p>A Sequatchie County Schools: ESSER FY23 Health and Safety Plan Six Monthly Addendum Public Survey (Google Forms) was emailed to all employees, parents/guardians, Chamber of Commerce business partners, social media, and the district website. A translated copy was posted and published on social media as well. Paper copies of the translated survey were sent to all non-English speaking families. A message was sent to parents/guardians stating that paper copies of the survey were available if needed. Two public meetings were held in 2 different community centers on September 1st and September 13<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>All survey data was collected and reviewed. A committee comprised of school personnel and stakeholders (District Supervisors, Principals, Director of School, Parent, and Chamber of Commerce Director) viewed data and revised the ESSER Plans.</p>
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2. Describe how the LEA engaged the health department in the development of the revised plan.

Sequatchie County Schools communicates frequently with the Tennessee Department of Health (including the Southeast Regional Office) and Sequatchie County Health Department.

These discussions focus on the current outlook for COVID-19 in our community as well as any potential updates and revisions that may be necessary for the school system.

The ESSER 3.0 Coordinator serves on the Sequatchie County COVID Taskforce. This group is composed of the following stakeholders: EMA Director, County and City Mayors, County Sheriff, City Police Chief, Sequatchie Schools, TN Health Dept, Sequatchie County Health Dept, Senior Citizens, Emergency Room, Ambulance, Chamber of Commerce, Local Physician, and Nursing Home. This committee meets to discuss COVID issues within each department.

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>
Sequatchie County Schools will provide accommodations, modifications, and assistance for students, teachers, and staff with disabilities and other health care needs when implementing COVID-19 safety protocols: Work with families to better understand the individual needs of students with disabilities. Remain accessible for students with disabilities: Help provide access for direct service providers (DSP) (e.g., paraprofessionals, therapists, early intervention specialists, mental health and healthcare consultants, and others). Ensure access to services for students with disabilities when developing cohorts. Adjust strategies as needed be aware that physical distancing and wearing masks can be difficult for young children and people with certain disabilities (for example, visual or hearing impairments) or for those with sensory or cognitive issues. Masks are not required, but if a person has been infected or exposed to COVID and should wear a mask to return to campus, then the following applies: For people who are only able to wear masks some of the time for the reasons above, prioritize having them wear masks during times when it is difficult to separate students and/or teachers and staff (e.g., while standing in line or during drop off and pick up). Consider having teachers and staff wear a clear or cloth mask with a clear panel when interacting with young students, students learning to read, or when interacting with people who rely on reading lips. Use behavioral techniques (such as modeling and reinforcing desired behaviors and using picture schedules, timers, visual cues, and positive reinforcement) to help all students adjust to transitions or changes in routines.
<i>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</i>
Social distancing should be practiced to the every extent possible in classrooms, lunchrooms, buses, hallways, etc. CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms to reduce transmission risk. Students should stay in pods with the same class mates as much as possible throughout the day to reduce the number of possible exposures.
<i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</i>
Each student will be taught proper handwashing techniques and respiratory etiquette. Coordinated School Health will work with families by providing handouts for students/guardians. CSH will also demonstrate correct handwashing, coughing, and sneezing, etc techniques. Hand sanitizing stations are located in each classroom as well as all common areas throughout the school buildings. Maintenance Department will keep the sanitizing stations filled with hand sanitizer, Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Remind everyone in the facility to wash hands frequently and assist young children with handwashing. If handwashing is not possible, use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol (for teachers, staff, and older students who can safely use hand sanitizer). Hand sanitizers should be stored up, away, and out of sight of young children and should be used only with adult supervision for children under 6 years of age
<i>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation</i>
The Maintenance Department will keep HVAC units and filters clean. They will ensure these systems are updated and working correctly.
<i>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</i>

Sequatchie County Schools will collaborate with TN Dept of Health and our local health department, to the extent allowable by privacy laws and other applicable laws, to confidentially provide information about students and employees diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19. At this time, the school system is not contract tracing. School Admin are suggested to collect and maintain updated seating charts from classroom teachers, related arts teachers, after school program site coordinators, and cafeteria monitors. Bus drivers and coaching staff are suggested to maintain seating charts when students are transported by bus. Students who test positive for COVID will need to stay home from school and will be asked to follow the CDC isolation protocols. Parents will call the school(s) to inform them when the child(ren) will return. Send written documentation when the student(s) returns to school. The guidelines and Isolation/Quarantine Calculator can be found on the district website at [www.sequatchieschools.net](http://www.sequatchieschools.net) or call Sequatchie County Health Dept at 423-949-3619 to ask about guidelines. We will supply a printed copy of the Guidelines if one is needed. If a family does not speak English, an interpreter is used to translate the information. The SPED Supervisor will work with families of students receiving SPED services.

*Diagnostic and screening testing*

Sequatchie County Schools is not participating in on-site COVID testing for students or employees.

*Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible*

Vaccines will not be required for attendance. However, a letter sent home with students stated vaccines are readily available to students and adults at the local health department or local pharmacies. Our school system is not offering diagnostic and screening tests at this time. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to use the local health department, local pharmacies, or clinics. Last year a local pharmacy came on campus for 1st and 2nd doses of COVID 19 vaccines. This year employees are encouraged to get the vaccines and boosters and the district will provide release time for the work day, if needed.

*Universal and correct wearing of masks*

Masks will not be required for students or employees, but they are highly recommended if needed. When masks are worn, they need to be worn correctly and consistently for the best protection. Employees will be asked to model for students by wearing masks in hopes they will also mask-up.

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 Sequatchie County School District Leadership team meets monthly to assess academic needs and address any changes needed in the District School Improvement Plan. The RTIB Teams organizes and works with schools to address Social Emotional Learning and other applicable services for students, families, faculty and staff. The Team identifies any needs or services pertaining to mental (and or) physical health needs. The school counselors organizes and work with families to provide resources and support schools (such as: food donations, clothing, housing attainment, and student school supplies). We have employed a Districtwide Social Worker. The Coordinated School Health employee, Social Worker, and Districtwide Behavior Specialist have team up to create a school resource center. Calming room has been added to Griffith Elementary School.