

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: Davidson County – Metro Nashville Public Schools

Date: September 15, 2022

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

In fall of 2022, MNPS relaunched our ESSER engagement process. We promoted the survey through internal and external communication channels, including social media, email, and the MNPS website. In addition, we reconvened our members of the Principal Advisory Group, Student Cabinet, Support Staff Cabinet, and Teacher cabinet in August 2022 to seek their feedback on our revised ESSER plan. We also used these cabinets to invite additional responses from these targeted stakeholder groups to our re-issued ESSER survey. In all, we received nearly 6,000 responses to our survey, representing a diverse base of stakeholders. We used these survey results to fine-tune our revision for September 15, 2022, and to pressure test community's ongoing buy-in to our previously submitted proposal. MNPS receives regular feedback from students, staff, and families through public comment at Board meetings, POSSIP surveys, social media engagement, school climate surveys, emails, and other feedback collection methods to help guide decisions on the health and safety of students and staff.

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

MNPS maintains a close partnership with the Metro Public Health Department when devising testing and vaccination policies and receive guidance on changes to policies when applicable. Our School Nurse Program is a partnership with the Metro Public Health Department, and we developed our 2022-23 COVID policies in coordination with the experts at the MPHD.

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.

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Students' accommodations are outlined in their Individual Education Programs and 504 plans, both of which the district implements, and which may include accommodations relevant to health and safety.
Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	Social distancing is encouraged when feasible.
Hand washing and respiratory etiquette	Maintaining current policies and best practices.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation	MNPS continues to install updated HVAC systems to create healthy facilities and improve ventilation. MNPS also continues to maintain cleaning policies and best practices.
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine	We notify classrooms when there is an exposure. Tennessee Code Annotated prohibits the mandatory quarantining of a close contact. Students or staff who test positive must isolate, but Tennessee Board of Education rules allowing for remote learning during an isolation period have expired and students must be counted as absent.
Diagnostic and screening testing	MNPS offers school-based COVID-19 rapid testing to any student or staff who is identified as a close contact or has symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Parents or guardians provide consent prior to testing. This will reduce barriers to testing for families who lack transportation or time to get tested

outside of school. In addition, MNPS offers testing at multiple sites throughout the district for students and staff.

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

MNPS hosts vaccine clinics with the support of the Metro Nashville Public Health department at various locations, when possible. The Employee Benefits Department in partnership with Vanderbilt Health offers additional vaccine opportunities for district staff.

Universal and correct wearing of masks

Masks are currently encouraged but not required for staff and students, and KN95 masks have been distributed to all schools.

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.

Metro Schools operations have largely returned to pre-pandemic normal practice; however, we have increased the level of support for students by providing no-cost meals to all students through the use of ESSER funds after federal waivers expired. We have invested heavily in the social-emotional health of students with the use of advocacy centers, peace centers, counselors, social workers, and mental health supports, in addition to expanding the number of Community Achieves schools that provide wrap-around support for students and families.