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

Addendum Guidance

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, 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 in the LEA document library and post to the LEA’s website (February 1 and August 27). 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.
- 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 of the plan. This is not the same as 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) help 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 September 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 whenever there are significant changes to the CDC recommendations for K-12 schools and to ensure the plan is current. 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: Johnson City Schools
Date: January 21, 2022

1. Describe how the LEA engaged in meaningful consultation with stakeholders in development of the revised plan.

The LEA received feedback at monthly board meetings from concerned stakeholders. In addition, phone calls, emails, social meeting sites all afforded stakeholders with the opportunity to provide feedback. The school clinic nurses interacted daily with stakeholders in regards to the school safety plan. Feedback from parents of students with IEPs and/or health concerns were instrumental in the development of the districts COVID dashboard and notification process. The school system's safety director participated in a media round table where questions were taken from individuals in the community. In addition, the LEA consulted with regional health department staff in bi-weekly phone calls as well as daily conversations between the school system liaison and the regional health department team.

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

The LEA engaged the regional health department in bi-weekly scheduled phone calls. The LEA contact person engaged in daily conversations with the school liaison and the regional health department team.
3. Provide to 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Area</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies</strong></td>
<td>Prior to the state law prohibiting mandated mask wearing, students with IEPs were allowed to opt out of mask wearing. Additional precautions were taken to limit possible COVID-19 exposure to medically fragile students by requiring each school's clinic staff to serve these students in their classrooms rather than requiring them to leave their class and travel to the clinic for their medical needs.</td>
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<td><strong>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</strong></td>
<td>Designated classroom seating was required until the state law removed the ability for district's to support contact tracing. Related arts schedules were designed to minimize the transmission of COVID-19. Teachers were encouraged to take classes outside as much as feasible.</td>
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<td><strong>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</strong></td>
<td>All elementary clinic nurses scheduled time in each elementary classroom to review/teach proper handwashing procedures.</td>
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<td><strong>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation</strong></td>
<td>The LEA plans to install new HVAC systems in Lake Ridge Elementary School and Woodland Elementary School.</td>
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<td><strong>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</strong></td>
<td>Although the LEA continues to recommend all current CDC guidance related to isolation and quarantine, due to recent state legislation, the district no longer participates. The regional health department is currently responsible for all contact tracing.</td>
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<td><strong>Diagnostic and screening testing</strong></td>
<td>The LEA provides on-site COVID-19 testing via PCR for all students (with parent permission) as well as all school system staff. This test is used for diagnostic and as well as for screening purposes.</td>
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<td><strong>Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible</strong></td>
<td>The LEA worked in coordination with the regional health department to provide vaccination pods for school system staff and eligible students.</td>
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<td><strong>Universal and correct wearing of masks</strong></td>
<td>Due to state law, mandated masking wearing was prohibited; however, new signed displayed to encourage proper mask wearing based on CDC guidelines.</td>
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4. Provide a current description as to how the LEA is ensuring continuity of services including but not limited to services to address the students' academic needs, and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.

The LEA has had no school closings during the 2021-22 school year due to COVID-19. In-person learning is available and on-going at all schools except for the Johnson City Virtual Academy which is intentionally designed to provide remote learning to students in grades 5-12 who choose to enroll (and has received
approval from the state as an additional school site). Students who are quarantined or in isolation are listed as “QP” or quarantine present in Power School and appropriate academic accommodations are provided.