

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: Macon County Schools

Date: September 7, 2023

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

Online survey, P/T Conference Questionnaire, Discussions are board meetings and at school improvement plan stakeholder meetings.

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

The Macon County Schools Coordinated School Health Supervisor and Director of Schools consulted local Macon County Health Department officials on their recommendations for safe return, and ultimate continuation, to a traditional in-person school environment. The recommendation was to follow CDC COVID guidelines.

2. 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>
Decisions concerning the health and safety of children with disabilities are made in IEP team meetings upon the recommendation of a doctor.
<i>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</i>
We are not currently practicing social distancing at any level at this time.
<i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</i>
Schools are continuing to instruct students on the proper techniques for washing their hands and how to safely cough with minimal exposure.
<i>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation</i>
All schools are provided with the necessary supplies to keep all facilities clean and sanitary. Teachers are also instructed to maintain a clean classroom environment. We have, and are continuing to, upgrade HVAC units to increase the air quality in our schools. We have also installed, or are installing, more water filling stations in each of our schools as needed. Protective mats in one gym have been replaced and there are plans to replace mats in another gym to help prohibit the transfer of body fluids among students. We also purchased two air scrubbers to aid with overall air quality.
<i>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</i>
We are not contact tracing at this time and isolation or quarantine are only occurring on doctor recommendation.
<i>Diagnostic and screening testing</i>
We do not perform COVID testing.
<i>Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible</i>
We do not provide any COVID vaccinations to faculty or staff.
<i>Universal and correct wearing of masks</i>
Masks are not required at this time. The wearing of a mask is optional for any student or employee.

3. 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.

In the event of another pandemic shutdown of the school system, we will provide direct instruction via google classroom to all students. Teachers will monitor the students for social and emotional distress. We have also hired additional guidance counselors and are in the process of a grant application to enable us to offer distance learning to students as well as a kiosk for access to mental healthcare.