

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: Cocke County School System _____

Date: January 3, 2022 _____

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

The Cocke County School System continues to provide updates on ESSER progress for the public at the monthly school board meetings. Stakeholders update if given each month as the district supervisor and principals meeting. Updates are shared at district ESSA planning meetings as the district plan is being developed. No major changes have been made to the district's original plan. As part of the initial plan the district utilized its mass communication system to deliver a survey to every student, family, and district employee to seek input for the purpose of soliciting public input for the utilization of ARP ESSER funds. The district has made direct contact with stakeholder organizations including local government bodies including the school board, the county legislative body, members of local emergency response organizations, medical providers, and interest groups including activists groups supporting students with disabilities, migrant students, foster care, incarcerated and youth. In addition to the survey and direct contact the district hosted open public meetings to seek input from community stakeholders. The following events have been conducted, or planned to take place prior to completion of the Cocke County School System ESSER 3.0 plan:

- School Board meeting: monthly on the second Thursday of each month with additional called meetings as necessary
- Staff and faculty information and input: Each staff and faculty member was given the district survey via the Remind application. The survey was also available on the district web site. The district also hosted an in-person meeting to gather input for staff and faculty.
- District level leadership participates in regularly scheduled Cocke County Covid Task Force meeting to receive input from local leadership.
- Parent and student information and input meeting: All registered students and families received the district's ESSER 3.0 input survey through the REMIND. The survey link was also posted on the district website. The district met with students and families at a family night meeting at the CCHS auditorium.
- Principal meeting: monthly
- District Web Site Posting Soliciting Parent and Community Input: <https://cockecountyschools.org/>
- Meetings with Advocacy Groups: The district hosted a Transition Summit to gather information from community services provider for individuals with disabilities both in-person and via the survey document. Additionally, the

district surveyed, met in person or remotely with DCS Educational Services, ARK of Tennessee coordinator, and the Chairman of the Tanner Cultural Preservation Society to represent minority community interests.

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

Cocke County School System District Leadership participates in the regularly scheduled Cocke County Covid-19 Task Force Meeting. Health Department officials are also part of this task force which guides county level decision making and planning surrounding Covid-19 and its impact across the community.

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.

<i>Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies</i>
Families of students with disabilities can request a 504 or IEP meeting to discuss the individual needs of the student. The district will provide identified accommodations to support the student's access to their educational services.
<i>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</i>
* Seating charts will be maintained on buses, in classrooms and other spaces as feasible. Large community spaces will not have seating chart requirements, unless determined necessary by school level officials.
<i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</i>
* Frequent and thorough hand washing will be encouraged. Educational videos provided by the CDC for handwashing https://youtu.be/1YdfLYhqu4Y is posted on the school system website and shared with all students, families, and school system employees via the district's mass communication system. CDC signage displaying procedures for hand washing and respiratory health will be posted in each school. * Use of hand sanitizer stations located throughout school facilities will be encouraged.
<i>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation</i>
* The Cocke County School System will continue to utilize available resources to improve and maintain school facilities to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Ventilation for schools is being improved through the purchase and installation of HVAC units in identified areas, as well as ionization and air purification units throughout all schools. * The district will continue to regularly disinfect high traffic area surfaces throughout all facilities.
<i>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</i>
The Cocke County School System will not conduct formal contact tracing. At the health department's request the district will share necessary seating charts with the health department to support their contact tracing effort. Students and staff identified as positive for Covid-19 will be excluded for the length of their illness. Students or staff who arrive at school with or develop symptoms of Covid-19 will be sent home for further evaluation and may return to school when they are free of symptoms. Necessary exclusions of positive or symptomatic cases will be made on a case by case basis, encouraging all well students and staff to be present for in-person instruction. The district will maintain regular planning contact with the health department through participation in the Cocke County Covid-19 Task Force meetings. District level leadership will maintain participation in the regularly scheduled task force meetings.

Diagnostic and screening testing

As part of the implementation of the Cocke County School System's Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Grant, voluntary Covid-19 testing is available to all district faculty and staff. Covid-19 testing is available to students age 12 and up at the parent's request with expressed written permission. Confidential Covid-19 test results will be reported directly to the patient from the testing lab and not the district. The district will receive the number of positive cases to report on the district dashboard only.

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

Vaccinations are not required for students or staff.

Universal and correct wearing of masks

Masks are strongly recommended, but not required for students or staff. Masks are allowed at the individual's discretion. Educational videos provided by the CDC supporting the universal and correct wearing of masks are posted on the school system website. Signage displaying procedures for universal and correct wearing of masks will be posted in each school.

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 Cocke County School System is offering in-person instruction and direct services to all students in the district. The district is not offering a fully virtual option to begin the 2021-22 school year. Students who become excluded or quarantined as a result of a positive test for or direct exposure to Covid-19 will be offered remote instruction opportunities with the every effort made to return the students to in-person instruction as soon as possible.

Based on the district's focus on maintaining in-person instruction the Cocke County School System plans to provide students and families services to address academic needs, including learning loss and acceleration as well as services and activities to support social, emotional, and mental health needs. Academic needs will be addressed through Tier I, II, and III instruction. ESSER funding has been utilized to purchase and implement researched-based, skills and standards-based curriculum and interventions to help address learning loss and to support student acceleration based on Tennessee State Standards. The urgent needs related to learning loss are being addressed through closely monitored research-based interventions. Focused services for identified subgroups are provided through the implementation of Instructionally Appropriate Individual Education Plans and Individual Learning Plans. ESSER funding as well as additional resources including the district's AWARE Grant provide social and emotional supports to student and staff. All schools will have a School Nurse to address health concerns and conduct any necessary actions regarding COVID-19. The Cocke County School System Food Service program continues to operate under the participation in full community eligibility in every school. The district is also utilizing funds to support foundational literacy skills while implementing the TN All Corps Program.