

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: Oak Ridge Schools (012)

Date: February 13, 2023

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

Oak Ridge Schools continues to work in a collaborative manner with the Anderson County Health Department and TN State Health Department to assure that our COVID-19 plan, and procedures are in alignment with both state agencies. The School Nurse Coordinator for Oak Ridge Schools is in open conversation with Anderson County Health Department if questions arise, or clarification of guidance is needed. The plan has been updated to maintain compliance and provide accurate information to staff and parents.

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

We seek guidance from the Anderson County Health Department and TN State Health Department regarding the latest updates regarding COVID-19. The Anderson County Health Department Nursing Supervisor has been instrumental in providing ongoing support to promote in-person education by being available for questions by phone and email.

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.

<p><i>Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies</i></p>
<p>Oak Ridge Schools continues to work with parents seeking accommodations for children with health-related disabilities. The first step is to meet with parents, discuss concerns and review the disability and other medical documentation. Accommodations have been based on individual student needs with the student’s health and safety being our primary goal while stressing the importance of participating in in-person instruction. A team approach is used to meet all of the needs of the child by including the student, parent, teacher, support staff, and medical provider’s orders in formulation of any plan to keep students with disabilities in a safe learning environment.</p>
<p><i>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</i></p>
<p>We continue to aim in physically separating students as much as possible. Our ability to do so is dependent on classroom size and number of students. We also strive for one- way traffic in school buildings during class change</p>
<p><i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</i></p>
<p>Oak Ridge Schools continues to provide education on the importance of handwashing. We provide handwashing stations in multiple areas at each school as well as individual bottles of hand sanitizer in classrooms. Hand-washing posters available in English and Spanish are displayed throughout the building and in restrooms. Most Pre-K and Kindergarten classes are educated on proper hand washing routines and length of time through videos and practice at the start of each school year. School nurses in each school provide education regarding respiratory etiquette including posters, bulletin boards, and newsletters to parents. Also, our School Health Coordinator, provides health walls in each school with information on both of these topics for easy to access information for both students and staff.</p>
<p><i>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation</i></p>
<p>Our custodial team continues to clean and sanitize all facility classrooms and common areas each day. For areas of high student or staff illness we provide a mist disinfectant on all services to assure that surface germs are being removed. During recent upgrades to HVAC units, we have increased and assured that all schools are following fresh air intake recommendations. We also installed a technology device on our HVAC equipment that removes contaminants and germs from the air being discharged through the unit. In each school clinic, nurses are provided with sanitization resources to clean after each student exhibiting symptoms related to COVID-19 is seen. High traffic surfaces and areas continue to be cleaned multiple times throughout the day by our custodial staff and nurses.</p>
<p><i>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</i></p>
<p>Due to guidance received from the TDOE and the State Health Department we have discontinued the practice of contact tracing and mandating student and staff quarantines. We are currently recommending all staff and families to comply to the TN Department of Health, Release from Quarantine and Isolation Guidance that is updated by the department. School nurses continue to work diligently with providing students, staff, and parents with the most up to date information provided by the TN Department of Health.</p>
<p><i>Diagnostic and screening testing</i></p>
<p>Using funds from ELC Grant and in partnership with Winbigler Medical, we are able to provide students and staff with PCR and Rapid COVID-19 testing on Monday and Thursday each week. For PCR testing, the specimen is collected at our central office location, then outsourced to a local laboratory for reading, where we are then able to provide the patient with results within 24 hours. We are also able to provide students and staff with COVID-19 Bionax Now Rapid testing that is available to provide a result to the individual within 15 minutes. Currently, we do not offer routine screening testing. We test individuals that have a known exposure or are currently symptomatic.</p>

There is a school nurse also available at each school, to screen students with symptoms and/or exposure. The school nurses continue to be in contact with students, family, and staff to provide the proper recommendations based on the TN Department of Health Guidelines.

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

In order to provide vaccination to educators, staff, and students, we conducted two Flu and COVID-19 vaccination clinics with a local pharmacy in the Fall of 2022. This was offered at our School Administration Building from 1-5pm to accommodate parents being present for student vaccination if they so choose to participate.

Universal and correct wearing of masks

We are not permitted to require students to wear masks. Students and staff do have the option of wearing a mask if they wish. We also provide masks to students and staff, if requested. In each school clinic, there are posters available that provide education on the proper way to don and doff personal protective equipment, including masking.

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.

Oak Ridge Schools continue to be committed to remaining open and providing in-person instruction for all students. We are confident that in-person instruction on a five day per week schedule is the most effective way to meet the academic needs of all students. Our teachers, support staff, administrators and guidance counselors are prepared to meet the needs of the whole child. We monitor student emails and social media in an attempt to detect key words that indicate potential student concern. We also conduct multiple surveys to assess current student emotional and mental health concerns. School counselors are available at each school to provide intervention to students with mental health concerns each day and connect students and their families with resources that are needed.