

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: Oak Ridge Schools_____

Date: 1/11/22_____

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

We have demonstrated transparency and distributing relevant information to parents and community members through district-level parent meetings, school-level parent meetings, partnerships with the public foundation, as well as rotary and other community groups. We have also posted the information on our web page for community view. Oak Ridge schools uses surveys, in-person meetings, virtual meetings, on-line notifications, and Skyalert phone communications to share opportunities for engagement from stakeholders. We meet monthly with parent representatives from each school to review and discuss current trends and potential revisions to our plan. Parents are provided the opportunity to provide input to assure that we have a joint plan addressing community concern. Our monthly School Board Meeting is an additional opportunity for parents, students and community members to provide input regarding student and staff safety,

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

We have an excellent partnership with the Anderson County Health Department. We have utilized their policies and practices to develop and update our plan. We consistently collaborate with the ACHD to benefit from their experience and knowledge of COVID-19 trends and practices.

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>
<i>Our SPED students benefit from the multiple precautions that have been shared in this document. We consistently meet with parents or guardians to better understand and accommodate individual student needs. This process has resulted in greater flexibility to allow us to meet the instructional needs of our students in a safe learning environment to eliminate a disruption of services. .</i>
<i>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</i>
<i>We have consistently communicated to staff the importance of social distancing students as much as possible. We have set up classes in pods to restrict the number of close contacts if a student or staff is confirmed to have COVID-19 and have altered large group settings such as cafeteria seating during periods of increased COVID-19 cases.</i>
<i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</i>
<i>We consistently encourage hand washing and have greatly increased the number of hand washing stations at each building. In addition, staff have been provided individual bottles of hand washing cleaner to promote student hand washing while in the classroom.</i>
<i>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation</i>
<i>All staff have been provided approved cleaning supplies and rags to clean classroom surfaces throughout the day. Custodial staff fog all student areas daily to promote a germ free leaning environment. Buses are also fogged prior to Am and PM bus routes.</i>
<i>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</i>
<i>We are consistent in contract tracing all confirmed cases. The parents of identified close contacts are contacted and encouraged to quarantine in compliance with the Return to School Algorithm. Information regarding confirmed cases and identified close contacts is shared with the Anderson County Health Department.</i>
<i>Diagnostic and screening testing</i>
<i>Each school has a school nurse that is available to screen or test students and staff for COVID-19. COVID-19 Testing is available at our school administration building between 8:00 and 4:00 five days per week to test students and staff with symptoms who are not at school.</i>
<i>Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible</i>
<i>We have provided multiple vaccine clinics for staff and students. We have been successful in providing this service by partnering with the Anderson County Health Department or local pharmacies.</i>
<i>Universal and correct wearing of masks</i>
<i>We previously implemented a mask mandate for all staff and students. Wearing a mask is now optional due to the action of Governor Lee but we do continue to offer students and staff masks as requested. Parents and staff have access to a COVID-19 Dashboard that communicates the number of active COVID-19 cases at each of our buildings. This dashboard assists parents in determining if the current state of their child's school supports wearing a mask while at school.</i>

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.

We recognize that COVID-19 has created stress and challenges for students and staff. We are consistent in listening to staff, students and families to better understand concerns and needs. We have nurses at each building to screen students and address COVID-19 related symptoms and school counselors to address emotional needs as well. Our schools are partnered with mental health providers to better support students and families exhibiting serious emotional issues. We are consistent in contact tracing, documenting identified close contacts and sharing appropriate information with parents and the ACHD. Our staff has done an excellent job providing instructional support for students who are unable to attend school. Our older students can monitor many classes online or communicate using ZOOM like tools to alleviate or reduce potential learning loss. We continue to implement benchmark testing which allows us to identify students in need of additional instructional support. We have added a Student Success Coordinator that is working with each building to better address the Emotional and Social Learning needs of all students. We are pleased with the growth that is taking place in this area. Our food service has been consistent in providing student meals during periods of school closure. We are prepared to offer this service again should it become necessary to transition to on-line learning. Staff have been reminded that our Employee Assistance Program is available as needed should outside support be appropriate.