

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: Williamson County

Date: 8/23/2023

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

We continue to engage with our Health Advisory Board, senior staff, principals, and community. Our plan is working well, and we have communicated that no changes are needed for this final year of this plan requirement.

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

The district has utilized the local hospital, Williamson Medical Center and other consulting physicians who also serve on our Health Advisory Committee. We utilized the local and state health department's guidelines and revised our illness guidelines and mitigation strategies as much as was possible and practical when the changes were made at the state level in past years. We have no changes needed now.

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.

<i>Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies</i>
We shared last year that the School Board approved a COVID-19 protocol to provide student accommodations for students with disabilities to have an equal opportunity to participate in WCS programs, benefits, and services as required by law.
<i>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</i>
Continued using cohort groups and podding where possible. Not currently needed.
<i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</i>
No changes – Please see the originally approved template from the Fall of 2021.
<i>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation</i>
No changes – Please see the originally approved template from the Fall of 2021.
<i>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</i>
Last year we reported that we had updated our illness guidelines to the CDC guidance for isolation timelines for infection. At that time, we adjusted our Illness Guidelines to no longer reflect quarantines based on the state no longer doing contact tracing. No new changes are needed now.
<i>Diagnostic and screening testing</i>
In the past, we made available self-testing COVID-19 kits for staff. These are no longer available.
<i>Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible</i>
No Change – Please see the originally approved template from the Fall of 2021.
<i>Universal and correct wearing of masks</i>
The School Board voted in November 2021 to not require masks in WCS.

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.

We currently ensure that all services are fully open and available. The district has been able to keep all schools open for in-school instruction with only a few special education early childhood classrooms going remote for a few days during the 2022-23 school year. We have continued with a full slate of

extracurricular activities, and full-service school nutrition program. Attendance for the district has averaged in the mid 90s percentile. Our before and after childcare program has also continued to operate.