

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: Sweetwater City School

Date: September 15, 2023 _____

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

Several methods were used in order to attain input from the school system's stakeholders. Since there have been amendments to the ESSER budgets, there have been regular conversations with the school system's stakeholders (community members, board members, school administration and teachers and families). As the year continues to progress, another survey will be posted (with the hope of attaining more input) and principals and teachers will be asked for additional input. The executive PTO board meets quarterly, and the topic has been regularly included at these meetings as well.

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

The Coordinated School Health Coordinator continues to be the main contact regarding anything related to COVID-19. She and the ESSER Point of Contact person are also in regular contact regarding the development of the spending plan and then she communicates the information to the health department. Coordinated School Health Coordinator, along with health department director, local hospital, physician offices, red cross, TEMA, police and fire, county mayor, county school district, directors of school, nursing home director meet as needed or required to review covid stats, hospital numbers, school numbers, best practices, updates, and concerns.

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>
Sweetwater City Schools provides accommodations for students with disabilities on a case-by-case basis with respect to health and safety policies.
<i>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</i>
The school system included funds to upgrade the school system’s promethean boards to the Boxlight technology. The new technology allows multiple students to participate in the interactive activities in their own space. The school system follows all guidelines and procedures set forth by the CDC and governor’s executive orders. We do not utilize cohorts.
<i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</i>
Teachers are continuing to regularly clean desks and prompt students to routinely wash their hands and use hand sanitizer. In order to help prevent the spread of germs, students are regularly reminded to use the following practices: To cover their mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, to throw used tissues in the trash and, if they don't have a tissue, to cough or sneeze into their elbow, not their hands. Furthermore, they are encouraged to wash their hands everytime they cough or sneeze. Each school nurses' office is wiped down after every student- regardless of the reason for the student's visit to the office.
CSH Coordinator and UT Extension agent regularly provide handwashing classes in all elementary schools.
<i>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation</i>
All of the proposed facility upgrades (ESSER 2.0 and 3.0) have been designed to create more energy efficient and healthy school environments. HVAC upgrades within the school system are completed.
<i>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</i>
The school system no longer sends home quarantine letters and is not permitted to keep a student home based on a COVID-19 test alone, though it is highly recommended and expected that parents will be forthcoming with a positive diagnosis and appropriately documented isolation protocol. School clinics can only respond to symptoms and if students or staff members present symptoms (including temperature, gastrointestinal distress, or a severe cough or cold symptoms) they will be advised to go home. Accepted COVID-19 absences will occur for families who provide one of the following: a positive COVID-19 test result from a medical professional or a photo of a positive at-home test with the name of the positive case.
<i>Diagnostic and screening testing</i>
Sweetwater City Schools offered COVID-19 testing free of charge to students and staff through July of 2023.
<i>Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible</i>
The Director of Schools coordinated with the Monroe County Health Department to schedule times for all school personnel to get the first and second vaccinations in Spring 2021. When the booster shot was available, the Director communicated this to all school personnel in order to ensure that everyone knew they were eligible to have the booster.
<i>Universal and correct wearing of masks</i>
Sweetwater City Schools abides by the governor’s order of no mask mandates. Masks are welcomed; however, they are not required.

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.

The Director of Schools and school administrators are working diligently to ensure that the schools will remain open throughout the school year. With this being the goal, all school personnel will continue to address each student's academic, social/emotional and mental health needs according to the spending plan for ESSER 3.0. The Coordinated School Health supervisor promotes healthy schools programs throughout the year and works hard to ensure that students receive information relating to health education (such as, hand washing, sun safety, good foods and exercise). The Food Services supervisor also ensures that each student has a healthy breakfast and lunch. Students have access to before/after school tutoring and summer learning camps in helping to reduce learning loss. There continues to be a continuous learning plan in the case of a school related closure due to Covid in ensure continuity of instruction. ESSER funds allowed to the addition of a full time guidance counselor at each school.

ELC funds and CSH funds supplemented additional nurse personnel. The CSH program sponsors mental and physical health initiatives in the fall and spring of each year. Centerstone Behavioral Health in partnership with Sweetwater Schools provides additional school-based therapy services at each school. Local civic organizations and non-profits such as the Monroe County Health Council, Sweetwater Kiwanis Club, and United Way provide funds for clothing, weekend food backpacks, glasses, technology assistance, and garden projects for students and families. EPSDT and Optometry appointments are available to students during the school day through Wellchild Inc.