

Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

Addendum Guidance

2022-2023

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 (Feb. 15 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: **Arlington Community Schools**

Date: **September 8, 2023**

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

September 2023 Addendum Information (updated survey data):

More than **465** stakeholders completed the questionnaire, with the majority **(80%)** classifying themselves as “Parent/Families.” Additionally, **18.02%** of respondents identified themselves as stakeholders representing special populations, such as children with disabilities, children with English as a second language, children experiencing homelessness, migratory students, children who are incarcerated, and underserved students. M

Respondents were able to answer several multiple-choice questions, and rank the importance of various ESSER fund expenditures. A comments section was also listed, allowing respondents to leave an open response for additional input.

More than **168** respondents left recommendations for how funds should be spent. After analyzing and assessing their relevance to ESSER spending, we used the data to help guide our revisions to the budget. Some recommendations went beyond the scope of ESSER 3.0 allowable expenses but were beneficial to the district in various ways.

In conjunction with the survey, the district provides ESSER updates during monthly school board meetings allowing stakeholders to provide feedback. An ESSER Update information flyer is made available to parent & families during different events at each school site. Additionally, ESSER survey postcards are available at each school site, and an ESSER email address is currently listed on the ACS website to provide an opportunity for year-round feedback.

February 2023 Addendum Information:

With the intent to engage in meaningful consultation with Arlington Community Schools' stakeholders, ACS launched a survey to solicit feedback from various groups, including students, parents, teachers, principals, administrators, civil rights organizations, special populations, and at-large community members. During the two-week open comment period, more than **625** stakeholders completed the questionnaire, with the majority (**85.76%**) classifying themselves as "Parent/Families." Additionally, **31.02%** of respondents identified themselves as stakeholders representing special populations, such as children with disabilities, children with English as a second language, children experiencing homelessness, migratory students, children who are incarcerated, and underserved students.

Respondents were able to answer several multiple-choice questions, and rank the importance of various ESSER fund expenditures. A comments section was also listed, allowing respondents to leave an open response for additional input.

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More than **235** respondents left recommendations for how funds should be spent. After analyzing and assessing their relevance to ESSER spending, we used the data to help guide our revisions to the budget. Some recommendations went beyond the scope of ESSER 3.0 allowable expenses but were beneficial to the district in various ways.

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

September 2023 Addendum Information (no revisions necessary):

February 2023 Addendum Information (no revisions are necessary):

Our state nor the CDC have issued any required Covid protocols or mask mandates. As a district, we continue to encourage frequent hand washing and allow students to do so throughout the day.

Additionally, our local Health Department no longer conducts weekly meetings with school districts. We monitor our cases weekly (student and staff) and ensure that cleaning/disinfecting of common areas occurs daily. The Coordinated School Health Supervisor frequently visits the Tennessee Department of Health CDC Recommendations for Cases and Contacts website to stay abreast of new guidance for Covid cases.

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>September 2023 Addendum Information: Our children with disabilities are some of our most vulnerable Population. Their teachers and the nurse who care for them monitor their overall health. Notes are documented and parents informed when needed. Additionally, many of our staff wear masks with this group, mindful that many of these students are unable to wear masks for a lengthy time due to medical needs. Each school is stocked with PPE for staff and student use.</p> <p>February 2023 Addendum Information (no revisions are necessary): Safety protocol accommodations may be warranted for some vulnerable students, including those with disabilities or other unique needs. Teachers and nurses have been able to address each unique case and establish a plan/practice that meets the need for the student or special needs classroom layout.</p>
<p><i>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</i></p> <p>September 2023 Addendum Information: We continue to post signs on walls/doors reminding all to social distance (3ft.) when able.</p> <p>February 2023 Addendum Information: When and where practical, 3-foot social distancing will take place. Directional signage on floors is utilized.</p>
<p><i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</i></p> <p>September 2023 Addendum Information: The district continues to provide hand sanitizing supplies to each classroom. Additionally, stand dispensers are located in common areas of the buildings.</p> <p>February 2023 Addendum Information: Hand sanitizing stations and cleaning wipes are supplied in all classrooms and common areas. Frequent handwashing is encouraged and allowed throughout the school day in the building.</p>
<p><i>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation</i></p> <p>September 2023 Addendum Information: HVAC units are still being replaced at each school, thereby improving air quality.</p> <p>February 2023 Addendum Information: Nearly 60 HVAC units were replaced over the summer break for better air quality and energy consumption in addition to the upgrades we made last year.</p> <p>Our nurses are available to assist students with immediate medical needs.</p>
<p><i>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</i></p> <p>September 2023 Addendum Information: Although we don't utilize a contact tracing system, school nurses continue to log positive Covid cases in our secured database. We are then able to observe trends, if existent. Students receive excused absences when they are out due to Covid.</p> <p>February 2023 Addendum Information: In cases of isolation, families must contact the school nurse to complete the required documentation.</p>
<p><i>Diagnostic and screening testing</i></p> <p>September 2023 Addendum Information: We still do not conduct onsite testing at our schools. Families are encouraged to use their medical providers to address their needs.</p> <p>February 2023 Addendum Information: ACS does not provide diagnostic and screening tests. Opportunities for testing are provided by surrounding medical agencies.</p>

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

September 2023 Addendum Information:

Educators, staff, and students stay abreast of local health department updates and decide on their personal plan, whether it be vaccination or not.

February 2023 Addendum Information:

Opportunities to receive COVID vaccinations are currently available by surrounding agencies.

Universal and correct wearing of masks

September 2023 Addendum Information:

Per local Health Dept. and CDC guidance, we do not require mask wearing. However, we do have plenty available for any staff or student who wishes to use them.

February 2023 Addendum Information:

Age-appropriate videos on proper respiratory etiquette are provided to teachers for students to view as needed.

- 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.**

September 2023 Addendum Information (no revisions necessary):

February 2023 Addendum Information (no revisions are necessary):

We are a 1:1 district in all grades, K-12, so are able to connect with students even when they are absent for an extended number of days. Each school will establish a before (or after) school tutoring program to assist students with learning loss and academic support. We continue to have a program that supports students who may need nutritious food items over each weekend break. We have staffed two Social & Transition Specialists to help students with their social and mental health.

We have 1 general policy related to safe and healthy protocols in effect:

ACS Policy 1.8011 - Emergency Closings: This policy addresses the cases when a Superintendent is authorized to close school due to hazardous weather or any other emergency. It includes the exception of a State Executive Order (Public Chapter No. 96).

ACS has rescinded the following policies due to decline in Covid-19 cases, and our state or the CDC does not have mask mandates or Covid related protocols in place:

Policy 4.203 - Temporary Instructional Policy for Students Testing Positive for COVID-19 or Possible Exposure to COVID-19: This policy allows us to offer temporary remote instruction to students who are quarantined whether it be for a positive test or a direct exposure to COVID-19. **(Rescinded)**

Policy 5.101 - Temporary COVID-19: This policy is for staff members who need to be absent due to COVID-19. It grants employees a maximum of ten days of paid sick leave if they are unable to work due to the listed COVID-related factors in the policy. **(Rescinded)**