

# Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan Addendum Guidance September 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: **Franklin SSD**

Date: **09/15/23**

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

The information that we have gathered was collected in a multitude of ways, including the following:

- Input from staff, families, & other stakeholders
- Public input during school board meetings
- Public input via social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)
- Phone and conference calls with community agencies
- Regular meetings with community members/agencies/health department
- Meetings of the school nurses, district leadership, principals, etc.

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

The district communicates regularly with the Williamson County Health Department to gather community information and to discuss our school procedures and policies. They continue to provide guidance to our district team and school board, based on ongoing updates to state and federal guidelines and best practices.

**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>No revisions needed for the <b>September 2023</b> update. Support with hand washing/hand sanitizing for children with disabilities is provided as needed by school staff. Every school is staffed with a nurse; nurses consult with parents of children with disabilities and with school administrators and teachers regarding questions related to disabilities and health and safety strategies according to specific IEPs and as needed.</p>
<p><i>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</i></p> <p>No revisions needed for the <b>September 2023</b> update. This is no longer occurring.</p>
<p><i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</i></p> <p>No revisions needed for the <b>September 2023</b> update. Adequate time is provided for regular hand washing in all schools frequently throughout the school day. Respiratory etiquette is strongly encouraged as well.</p>
<p><i>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation</i></p> <p>No revisions needed for the <b>September 2023</b> update. During the 2021-22 school year, large area disinfectant sprayers were purchased and used for areas like gyms, cafeterias, buses, etc. to provide more coverage in a more time-efficient manner, and these are still in use for the 2023-24 school year.</p>
<p><i>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</i></p> <p>All reports of positive cases received from students and staff are referred to the school nurse and individuals are advised on isolation dates and excluded from school based on current CDC guidance. All reports received regarding close contact to a positive case are provided current CDC guidance for precautions following exposure. Nurses are monitoring active cases that have been reported.</p>
<p><i>Diagnostic and screening testing</i></p> <p>Families and staff are asked to report any illness symptoms and are advised by the school nurse to follow the advice of their physician or the CDC's recommendations for exclusion and testing for COVID-19. All school staff are educated to monitor students for visible signs of illness and refer students to the school nurse for assessment.</p>
<p><i>Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible</i></p> <p>No revisions needed for the <b>September 2023</b> update. A COVID-19 vaccine information link is posted on the FSSD website. The school nurse provides assistance to families and staff members when requested to locate available vaccine administration sites.</p>
<p><i>Universal and correct wearing of masks</i></p> <p>No revisions needed for the <b>September 2023</b> update. The district has communicated with parents by email, text and voice messaging, as well as placement on the website, the state mask requirements for school districts. The district website links to the CDC's mask recommendations. Masks are not required for students or teachers but may be worn if desired.</p>

**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 district will ensure continuity of services by offering multiple supports, services, and resources as needed for all students. The services our district offers apply to all students receiving in-person instruction, and they also apply to any students that may be quarantined at home due to being exposed to COVID-19.

The services that the FSSD continues to provide are as follows:

- All students have devices for use at school and home. These devices enable students to work from home during any periods of illness or quarantine. All materials and technology are provided for students and families.
- Families may check out a wireless hotspot for Internet access at home.
- School counselors, social workers, parent liaisons, and others reach out to students and families to assist in assessing their needs.
- Mercy Community Health Care mental health therapists are stationed in our schools, as well as school psychologists, who provide on-site and after-school support as needed.
- The EAP Program is available to all employees, which provides mental health, addiction, and other support services.
- Food boxes are delivered to those that need this resource. The district also offers a summer feeding program where families can pick up meals for students.
- Devices are sent home with students when needed to provide the continuity of learning/services.
- Hot spots are provided to those students who are learning from home due to quarantine as needed.
- School advisory councils meet to address any needs that students may have.
- The McKinney-Vento coordinator and the district's social workers ensure that students who are classified as homeless are receiving a consistent and stable education and work with community agencies to assist with other physical and social-emotional needs.
- Therapy dogs are available to students and staff in all schools and the central office, as needed, to help reduce anxiety and stress. The district has seven full-time therapy dogs.
- Professional learning in personal and social competencies is ongoing for district and school administrators, teachers and staff.
- Students are provided opportunities to share personal experiences and stressors through advisory meetings, morning meetings, and counselor appointments during the school day.