

# 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: Trenton Special School District

Date: 9/14/24

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

TSSD Safety Director and School Nurse are current on CDC guidelines concerning COVID 19. New guidelines are shared with parents, students, faculty and staff as they are updated. TSSD follows all guidance from the Health Department and the CDC. All new information is shared with school administration from the district office. No major revisions have been made to our Health and Safety Plan.

In order to keep our stakeholders informed, new information continues to be shared through social media, Remind messages, and school board updates. COVID cases are documented, when the parent calls, and kept on file with the Safety Director.

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

TSSD Safety Director has close contact with the local health department and continually makes adjustments to the schools protocols based on guidance from the Tennessee Department of Health, the CDC, and recommendations from the local health department. The CDC's latest recommendation of decreased quarantine/isolation time was discussed with the Health Department and based on that change and informational flow charts from the TDOH the school revised its quarantine/isolation policy to the recommended time frame. The recommendations made by the health department were implemented in all schools in the district. New guidelines are that the person must be fever free, without fever reducing products, for 24 hours and symptoms are improving, before returning to school.

**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>
Specific accommodations and/or individualized plans have been developed for students with disabilities who have complex health issues and for general education students with complex health issues.
<i>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</i>
Physical distancing was implemented in the classrooms, hallways, and cafeteria. Hallways had directional arrows and six foot markings to ensure proper distancing as students transitioned in the building. Masks are still provided for anyone requesting one.
<i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</i>
Signs are posted in all three buildings that provide guidance for respiratory etiquette. These signs include pictures for students who are nonreaders. In addition, teachers remind students of the proper procedures for respiratory etiquette, and supplies have been provided to all buildings. Our district’s ventilation was improved last school year when a new filtration system was installed.  Hand sanitizing stations were available at all entrances. Every room in the building was equipped with hand sanitizer and alcohol wipes for students to use as needed. Alcohol wipes, hand sanitizer, and face masks are replenished in classrooms as needed.
<i>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation</i>
TSSD invested in disinfectant spray machines for teachers to use during class changes to maintain clean classrooms for the students. Teachers were also provided with cleaning supplies to use. The systems janitors also worked diligently to clean and sanitize the school for the safety of the students. Our district’s ventilation was improved last school year when a new filtration system was installed. Disinfecting stations were added to each schools janitorial closets and disinfectant is replenished as needed.
<i>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</i>
Isolation and quarantine are no longer requirements under updated guidelines. We do keep a record, when parents call in, of those who are out due to Covid. They are able to return to school when they are fever free for 24 hours, without the assistance of a pain relieving medication, and their symptoms are improving.
<i>Diagnostic and screening testing</i>
The school does not test students, faculty or staff for COVID. All information regarding a diagnosis of COVID comes from the person in the form of a doctor’s evaluation and testing diagnosis or from a purchased at home test.
<i>Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible</i>
Boosters are up to individual students, staff and faculty members.
<i>Universal and correct wearing of masks</i>
For the 2024-2025 school year, the Trenton Special School District has not mandated the wearing of masks. Parents, students, faculty and staff may choose to wear masks if they desire to do so. Parents of students under 12 were able to “opt out” of their students wearing a mask. However, if they desire their child to wear a mask at school, the school will enforce their choice and encourage their child to keep their mask on at school. Due to the new CDC guidelines for those testing positive for COVID and no quarantine for close

contact we have asked that upon return to school from a positive test or from close contact with a positive person they follow the suggested guidelines regarding the of wearing a mask.

**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.**

Once again, our district provided summer learning camps for our elementary, middle, and high school students. Pre and post tests were administered and results analyzed and shared with classroom teachers, prior to the 2024-2025 school year. We continue to offer tutoring opportunities to all students before, during, and after school focusing on student's academic needs as well as providing enrichment activities.

Benchmark assessments continue to be administered in grades K-12. Student results are utilized during RTI periods, classroom instruction, and tutoring.

Our district has hired a full-time mental health counselor. She is working directly with students in Pre K through Grade 12 who exhibit the most severe mental health issues. She is also working with at-risk students in small groups to prevent their social emotional health from declining. The mental health counselor collaborates with classroom teachers on best practices to support students in their classes.

Our school social worker and the School Nurse continue to support students by providing services such as the LeBonheur Mobile Health Unit and the backpack food program that provides families with food for the weekend.