

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: Dyer County School System

Date: February 27, 2023 _____

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

No revisions from the previous plan were needed.

In order to collect feedback and information regarding our Safe Return to In-Person and Continuity of Services Plan, the Dyer County School System continued to be engaged in meaningful consultation with all stakeholders. Such meetings continue to include; administrative staff meetings with district supervisors and principals, Teacher Advisory Groups, Parent Advisory Groups, and Dyer County School Board meetings. During these meetings, discussions took place as to how to continue to best meet the needs of the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Plan. Minor revisions were made to our original plan. All students continue to attend school on a regular schedule unless they are placed in quarantine, where they receive remote learning opportunities. The Dyer County School System is currently not contact tracing, per CDC guidelines, and we continue to engage in ongoing consultation with our local health department.

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

The only change is that we now meet in person instead of via zoom meetings.

Dyer County School's Coordinated School Health Coordinator continues to meet with the Dyer County Health Council bimonthly, where a review of any updated guidelines and procedures is shared and discussed. These meetings are now held in person, whereas in the past, they were conducted via zoom meetings.

Our Director of Schools, Nursing Supervisor, and Coordinated School Health Coordinator continue to meet to assess State Department guidelines and communicate by phone or email with the Dyer County Health Department Director to determine if changes to our plans and protocols are needed.

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.

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies

No revisions from the previous plan were needed.

All individual student needs are addressed, and appropriate accommodations are provided as outlined in student IEP, 504 Plans, or Health Care Plans. We will continue to monitor and adjust individual student plans as needed.

Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)

No revisions from the previous plan were needed.

While the school system no longer requires students to remain in one location or in cohorts, teachers are asked to recommend social distancing while indoors to the extent possible.

Hand washing and respiratory etiquette

No revisions from the previous plan were needed.

Hand sanitizing stations are installed throughout the school buildings and classrooms. Signage is posted to model proper hand washing and respiratory etiquette.

All staff and students will continue to be educated on proper hand washing and respiratory etiquette throughout the school year.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation

No revisions from the previous plan were needed.

All Dyer County School employees will continue to regularly clean high contact surface areas, including inside and outside of the school and modes of transportation. Since the last update to our Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service plan, the system installed air scrubbers to complement the new HVAC systems installed in five of our older facilities.

Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine

No revisions from the previous plan were needed.

Dyer County Schools are currently not contact tracing per CDC guidelines. Positive cases are instructed to isolate for a minimum of five days after onset. They may return to school after they are without fever for 24 hours, without fever-reducing medication, and show improvement in symptoms. Cases without symptoms should isolate for five days after their specimen collection date. Regardless of symptoms, CDC recommends wearing a well-fitting mask when around others for ten days following onset/specimen collection.

- Some severely ill patients may need to isolate for a longer time period.
- Lingering cough or loss of taste or smell should not prevent a case from being released from isolation.
- If a follow-up PCR test is positive, cases do not need to re-enter isolation as long as they have completed the five-day isolation and had symptom improvement for a minimum of 24 hours.

Diagnostic and screening testing

No revisions from the previous plan were needed.

Students and staff members who exhibit COVID symptoms are evaluated by school nurses. Those who show two or more of the identified symptoms are given the opportunity to take a Quidel QuickVue Antigen test. Parents electing to take advantage of this opportunity must sign a request to have their child tested. All positive tests are reported to the Health Department through REDCap.

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

No revisions from the previous plan were needed.

Dyer County Schools will continue to work with local pharmacies to ensure an efficient vaccination process and opportunities are available for all students and staff members.

Universal and correct wearing of masks

No revisions from the previous plan were needed.

The Dyer County School System will continue to follow the recommendation of the CDC by encouraging the universal and correct wearing of masks.

- 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.**

No revisions from the previous plan were needed.

To ensure continuity of services to address students' academic, social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, Dyer County Schools will continue to provide in-person learning for all students in the 2022-2023 school year. Students quarantined due to COVID will be offered remote learning opportunities. School counselors will continue to work within the system to provide emotional support to students and staff. These counselors also work as liaisons between parents and outside mental health agencies.