

# 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: Morgan County Schools

Date: 8/29/2022

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

Survey results from August 2022 and initial survey data and public forum meeting information from 2021 were used to make informed decisions about how to plan for ESSER 3.0 spending. Parents, students, school staff/faculty, school/district administration, and county stakeholders were all involved in the input process.

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

Morgan County Health Department and Morgan County School District maintained regular communication throughout the school year and shared any CDC/TN Dept. of Health recommendations and updates. The Health Department provided guidance on individual cases, information on COVID trends and hotspots, and consultation on current best health practices. Revised health plans were submitted to the Health Department for review and feedback.

**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>
In order to protect our most vulnerable health populations, families of SWD will receive notification of high volume of positive COVID cases in their students' classroom. Parents of SWD will be given the discretion to activate remote learning for their SWD until positive cases trend down.
<i>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</i>
To continue to mitigate the spread of COVID, schools will continue to cohort students when feasible. Large gatherings or assemblies will be scheduled mindful of the number of participants. Field trips will include an increased number of buses to provide appropriate spacing in a confined area.
<i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</i>
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette signs remain posted in high traffic and situationally appropriate areas. Nurses continue to provide individual and group education on these topics.
<i>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation</i>
Custodial staff continue to maintain an elevated level of sanitization in high traffic areas and classrooms.
<i>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</i>
New COVID-19 policies were adopted on August 2, 2022 that narrowed the focus of school initiated quarantine to positive cases only. Schools will no longer contact trace.
<i>Diagnostic and screening testing</i>
MCS has promoted the availability of free COVID-19 home tests. Home tests are accepted as proof of positivity.
<i>Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible</i>
MCS does not provide vaccination to staff, but permission is given to students or staff to receive vaccines without having to use any leave time.
<i>Universal and correct wearing of masks</i>
MCS encourages the CDC recommendations of mask wearing after a positive case and during a large population of indoor events.

**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.**

All Morgan County Schools services are continuing as normal with minimal accommodations based on needs caused by the pandemic. Staff and student academic,, social, emotional, mental health, and other needs are continually being served, including food service and student health needs.