

DISTRICT: _____

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



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, enacted on March 11, 2021. ARPA ESSER Funding provides a total of nearly \$122 billion to states and local educational agencies (LEAs) to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the nation's students. In addition to ARP ESSER Funding, ARP includes \$3 billion for special education, \$850 million for the Outlying Areas, \$2.75 billion to support non-public schools, and additional funding for homeless children and youth, Tribal educational agencies, Native Hawaiians, and Alaska Natives.

LEAs must develop and make publicly available a *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan* that meets the following requirements within 30 days of receiving ARP ESSER allocation. If an LEA developed a plan before ARP was enacted that does not address the requirements, the LEA must revise its plan no later than six months after it last reviewed its plan. All plans must be developed with meaningful public consultation with stakeholder groups (i.e.,

families, students, teachers, principals, school and district administrators, school leaders, other educators, school staff, advocacy organizations representing student groups). The consultation process must include an opportunity for input and meaningful consideration of that input. ARP ESSER plans to be in an understandable and uniform format; to the extent practicable, written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable, orally translated; and upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent. All plans must be made publicly available on the LEA's website and published on the Tennessee Department of Education's (department) website within thirty (30) days.

Please note that LEAs need to **update** the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan **at least every six months** through September 30, 2023 and must seek public input on the plan and any revisions and must take such input into account. All revisions must include an explanation and rationale of why the revisions were made.

Questions in this health plan were developed by the US Department of Education.

Consultation with Stakeholders

1 Describe how the LEA will, in planning for the use of ARP ESSER funds, engage in meaningful consultation with stakeholders, including, but not limited to:

- i. students;
- ii. families;
- iii. school and district administrators (including special education administrators); and
- iv. teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff, and their unions.
- v. tribes;
- vi. civil rights organizations (including disability rights organizations); and
- vii. stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children and youth in foster care, migratory students, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students.

The Achievement School District engaged in meaningful consultation with stakeholders to learn what they believe is most important to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on its students.

Stakeholders representing the groups listed above were identified, and communication was developed inviting them to provide their feedback on how the district plans to use ARP ESSER funds. A survey was designed to gather feedback and input from stakeholders and was made available to stakeholders through Facebook and district webpage (www.achievementschooldistrict.org).

2 Provide an overview of how the public stakeholder input was considered in the development of the LEA's plan for ARP ESSER funds.

The district considered public input in the development of the LEA's plan for ARP ESSER funds. Family and community input was gathered and organized by responses for alignment and inclusion in the LEA plan.

3 How did the LEA compile feedback during the open comment period for the ARP Plan?

The district sent an announcement with links to stakeholders informing them that the draft LEA plan is ready for public comment. Links to the LEA plan and public comment sections were posted on the district website.

4 How was the input considered during the open comment period time?

The district gathered family and community comments for alignment and inclusion in the final ARP plan.

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Safe Return to In-Person Instruction

Describe to the extent to which the LEA has adopted policies and a description of any such policies on each of the following health and safety strategies:

- universal and correct wearing of masks;
- physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);
- hand washing and respiratory etiquette;
- cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;
- contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine;
- diagnostic and screening testing;
- efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible; and
- appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.

The district is following the CDC recommendation for K-12 School Operational Strategy to continue to use the current COVID-19 prevention strategies for the 2020-21 school year. If prevention strategies are strictly adhered to K-12 schools can safely open for in-person instruction and remain open with the guidance of the local health department.

- **Universal and correct wearing of masks** - The district will continue to enforce its safety policies requiring all staff, students, and visitors to wear masks while in the buildings. CDC recommends community use of masks, specifically non-valved multi-layer cloth masks, to prevent transmission of SARS-CoV-2. Masks should completely cover the nose and mouth and fit snugly against the sides of face without gaps.
- **Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)** - The district will continue to enforce its safety policies requiring all staff, students, and visitors to practice social or physical distancing while in the buildings. Masks should still be worn in addition to staying at least 6 feet apart (about 2 arm lengths). Practicing preventive actions and keeping space between you and others is one of the best tools to avoid being exposed to the virus in our communities.
- **Hand washing and respiratory etiquette** - The district will continue to enforce its safety policies requiring all students and staff to wash their hands regularly, particularly after coughing or sneezing, touching hi-contact areas, and coming from outdoors. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. When washing hands following the five steps every time. Wet, Lather, Scrub, Rinse and Dry. CDC Hand washing Campaign: Life is Better with Clean Hands. The districts respiratory etiquette will continue by encouraging all to cover the nose and mouth with tissue when coughing and sneezing. Dispose of the used tissue in waste receptacle and practice the 5 steps of hand washing or rub hands with an alcohol-based hand rub.
- **Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities** - The district will continue to enforce its safety policies requiring disinfecting after a known case of coronavirus. Cleaning and wiping down desks, doorknobs and high-touch surface areas daily. The district has plans to ensure all water systems are safe to use by flushing the plumbing with fresh water and upgrade water fountains to touch less water stations.
- **Including improving ventilation** - The district submitted a proposal for epidemiology funds to upgrade school HVAC systems, install air purifying systems, and install Hi-rated MERV filters across the portfolio.
- **Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine** - The district will continue to enforce its safety policies requiring a list of close contacts upon a suspected case of coronavirus and follow current CDC guidance for isolation, close contact tracing and quarantine. CDC advised that schools should collaborate with their local health department, to the extent allowable by privacy laws and other applicable laws, to confidentially provide information about people diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19.
- **Diagnostic and screening testing** - The district will continue to enforce its safety policies requiring all staff and visitors to submit to a temperature check not higher than 100.4 degrees, and verbally asked if they have any difficulty breathing, sore throat and coughing at the entrance of each building. Additionally, staff and visitors are required to fill out a health questionnaire.
- **Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible** - The district provided opportunities to all teacher and staff across the Portfolio to get vaccinated on March 5, 2020, and the following month for dose 2 to complete the vaccination. We will continue to encourage educators, other staff and students if eligible to get vaccination through the summer and school year at any local health provider that are providing

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vaccination opportunities. This is an effort to have every member of our school community offered the opportunity to be vaccinated.

- **Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies** – The district will provide a continuum of special education and related services to eligible students, in-district self-contained classes, resource in-class and virtual stay at home replacement programs, general education programs with appropriate accommodations, related services, and home instruction. All programs and services are based upon individual student needs as determined by each student’s individualized education plan (IEP).

Continuity of Services Plan

6 **How the LEA will ensure continuity of services including but not limited to services to address the students’ academic needs, and students’ and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.**

The district is seeking to hire a social and emotional counselor to manage the day-to-day of the district’s wellness operation. This position will support students and staff as they cope with positive COVID-19 test results. The counselor will also provide training to ensure all staff members play a role in COVID-19 prevention. In addition to these pandemic-specific responsibilities, the counselor will also coordinate training on restorative practices and provide bullying and mental health training.

The district is also seeking to hire a coordinated school health nurse. In addition to the regular duties of a school nurse, this position would be responsible for referring any cases of illness for COVID testing and providing supplemental counsel where needed for students and staff upon a positive test result.

The district will also implement Employee Assistance Programs – for staff; District Guidance counselor; schools are employing additional staff; and additional Social Emotional rooms for students & staff.

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