

## 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: Unicoi County

Date: August 31, 2022

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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.

No revisions have been. Updates have been provided at both school-level and district-level meetings and events. Updates have also been discussed at a variety of local government and civic organization meetings.

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

Unicoi County's Supervisor of Health and Safety has maintained regular, two-way communication with local and regional health departments throughout the pandemic. Revision in Recommended Isolation of positive cases are based upon CDC guidance as of August 1, 2022.

**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>
<i>Students with disabilities will follow the same procedures as listed below. Special transportation is provided for students with the most severe disabilities with assigned seating and social distancing. Students work in the same cohort in the classroom to prevent the spread of germs to a large number. The classroom and all manipulatives are sanitized daily throughout the day and after the students are dismissed. Hand sanitizer is provided at all times in the classroom.</i>
<i>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</i>
<i>Physical distancing will be in effect in situations where possible.</i>
<i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</i>
<i>We will continue to recommend and encourage frequent hand washing and respiratory etiquette. Teachers will offer frequent bathroom breaks so that students may wash their hands. Encourage covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. Throwing used tissues in the trash, if a tissue is not available coughing or sneezing into elbow, not hands. Immediately wash hands after blowing nose, coughing or sneezing. Remind students and staff that washing your hands is one of the most effective ways to prevent yourself or others from getting sick. Instruct students and staff to wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, if soap and water are not readily available, alcohol based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 % alcohol to clean hands will be provided throughout the school.</i>
<i>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation</i>
<i>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation- we will continue to have extra cleaning protocols in place on a daily basis. We will provide extra cleaning for classrooms of positive cases that were in attendance during their infectious period. For the past four years Unicoi County Schools have been updating HVAC systems in our schools that include systems that have energy recovery ventilators that bring fresh air in while buildings are occupied and exhaust stale air from the classrooms.</i>
<i>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</i>
<i>We will continue to encourage positive students or staff to isolate at home during their 5 day infectious period (Updated to reflect the latest guidance from the CDC regarding positive cases)</i>
<i>Diagnostic and screening testing</i>
<i>We will continue to refer parents, students and staff to their healthcare provider or local health department for diagnostic and screening testing.</i>
<i>Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible</i>
<i>We will continue to work with our local health department to provide information regarding vaccinations and hold onsite clinics if needed.</i>
<i>Universal and correct wearing of masks</i>

*Unicoi County Schools does not currently have a mask mandate.*

**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.**

Unicoi County will continue to closely monitor the status of the pandemic within our region. Continuity of services will be ensured through the continued implementation of our 2020-2021 Reopening Guidelines with revision as needed based on changing guidance from the CDC and regional health department. These guidelines, built upon a three tiered, color coded system, will inform the level of preventative measures to minimize spread that will be taken on school campuses. A virtual model as previously implemented, including check-ins, school health services, meal deliveries and pick-ups, will be available should the situation require. The virtual instructional model will be implemented through our one-to-one device program, Google Classroom and Google Meets.