



DISTRICT: Public Plan

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

*NOTE: If any of your answers to the following questions require additional space,
please use the supplemental blank pages at the end of this document.*

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 meaning 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.

Local school board meetings were held with ESSER 3.0 placed on the agenda. Discussions were held with ability for public input on possible uses for ESSER money. Public input is a part of each meeting. School Board voted to use ESSER in pockets such as: student learning/academics, technology, facilities. The Director of Schools discussed ESSER money with the county commission at numerous public meetings. Commission was made aware of the intent of possible uses of the federal money. Surveys were developed to allow for public input of all stake holder groups. Survey results when available will be reviewed and district level staff will categorize, review, and use results in decision making. Plans will be made public when final and all stakeholders will be made aware that money is amendable based on the needs of our district and students.

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

Warren County Schools provided multiple opportunities for public input during regularly scheduled and advertised board meetings. During board meetings, the district discussed proposed areas of expenditures and sought feedback from the attendees. Following board meetings, the district created a survey for all community members. The survey asked responders to indicate spending priorities from a list of proposed items gathered through board meetings and stakeholder meetings. Community members were also provided opportunities to list additional items in the free response sections. All district level staff members were emailed the survey for additional avenues of feedback. Public input matched up with district core initiatives to 1) Increase small group instruction, 2) Increase teacher effectiveness, 3) Address facility needs and 4) to provide mental health and student supports.

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

In person feedback was recorded in board meetings. The district gathered all electronic survey information that was returned into a single spreadsheet. The information has been reviewed regularly during the collection phase. The spreadsheet allows the district to review information in simplified format. Information has been graphed to allow for quick reference. In addition, the district has reviewed written comments gathered through the process. Results were discussed at numerous meetings among district supervisors that composed the ESSER spending plan. Key priorities were formed in the areas of Academics, Student Readiness, Educators, and Foundational. Discussion yielded decisions and recommendations that were taken back to school board meeting for the board to discuss and approve proposed expenditures.

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

Throughout the process the district has reviewed the information gathered through the public facing document. Information has been updated on a regular basis. The district has discussed the prioritized items according to the public survey into 4 four areas: 1) Increase small group instruction, 2) Increase teacher effectiveness, 3) Address facility needs 4) to provide mental health and student supports. Stakeholder input guided important decisions as to what funding should be prioritized to meet the needs of teachers, students, and community members in Warren County.

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction

5 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.

Please see supplemental responses section

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.

Continuity of services will be ensured with regular checks by department leaders through PLC meetings to monitor that all students are receiving all services that are available in the district. These services align to increase not only academic improvement but also meet SEL needs of students and staff. When schools were reopened in August 2020, WCS were on a hybrid schedule with only announcing Friday's as distance learning days county wide. In reopening in 2021, schools have been all in person five days a week. The Warren County School District assists the local health department with contact tracing two ways. The school nurse identifies the positive COVID case by name on a health department spreadsheet; the nurse then identifies the staff and students who are close contacts to the positive case. Parents/guardians are contacted, letting them know their children have been exposed and direct them to the local health

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SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSES

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Warren County Schools returned in person with a distance learner option for the 2020-21 school year under the following policies to address Covid.

* Face masks are the expectation of Warren County School employees and students. The State of Tennessee has advised local school systems to require students to wear face masks except in certain specific circumstances, e.g., very young students, students with intellectual disabilities, and students with sensory issues. Cafeteria employees are required to wear masks while preparing and serving food in the cafeteria.

* Principals are creating cafeteria schedules based on the size of the cafeteria and the number of students in their schools. Where at all possible, students will sit one seat apart from other students while in the cafeteria. Some classes may be eating in classrooms and other spaces to accommodate this separation of students. Principals will utilize faculty and staff to provide teachers with a duty-free lunch. Teachers will consider classroom seating to distance students as far apart as possible. We cannot guarantee 6 feet social distancing in every classroom. Efforts will be made to limit the gathering of large groups of students to the greatest extent possible. Principals will make plans for how best to do this at their schools. Students may wait for class to start in classrooms or hallways. Students may be dismissed from classrooms or hallways as well.

* Additional equipment and supplies have been purchased to allow for more frequent sanitation. Students will wash hands or use hand-sanitizer before and after recess. Each cafeteria will have hand sanitizer stations at the door entrance. Students will be asked use this before entering the serving area. The serving line will be sanitized after each classroom of customers. Teachers promoted hand washing.

* Faculty and staff screened every student with a temperature check prior to entering school. Students with an above average temp were isolated. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies were made on a case by case situation.

For the 2021-2022 school year, the Warren County School System will consult with the Local Health Department and community medical professionals, to review guidance from the Tennessee Department of Health and the CDC. The following is a tentative plan. If at any time during the school year the Local Health Department or the TN Department of Health makes new recommendations due to an increase in positive cases, the Warren County School System will evaluate our practices and adjust accordingly. Face coverings will be recommended (optional) for the students, faculty and staff of Warren County Schools, as well as any visitors. Appropriate physical distancing will be encouraged to the greatest extent possible. Warren County Schools will also emphasize the best practices in handwashing, respiratory etiquette and hygiene to promote healthy habits. This will include encouraging students to utilize handwashing stations and hand sanitizer before leaving and entering a room as well as the cafeteria line. Continued use of specialized sanitation devices for all classrooms, buses and large areas on a schedule set forth by custodial and transportation supervisors or based on need. The county is in the process of having all ventilation systems in all school buildings cleaned. These are on a rotating basis. The school system will continue to work with the local health department to assist their efforts in these categories. Temperature checks will be available for any student faculty or staff member as needed. In addition, the Warren County School System is preparing to have the capability to test faculty, staff, and students for COVID when needed. Efforts to Provide Vaccinations to Educators, Staff, Students –Currently on the District website as well as social media pages are reminders that the local health department is offering vaccinations for people ages 12 and up. Any accommodations will be made on an individual case by case basis. Met with Health Advisory committee three times during the school year to collaborate.

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SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSES *(continued)*

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