

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) help 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 September 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 whenever there are significant changes to the CDC recommendations for K-12 schools and to ensure the plan is current. 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: Tennessee Public Charter School Commission

Date: 1/31/2022

1. Describe how the LEA engaged in meaningful consultation with stakeholders in development of the revised plan.

The Tennessee Public Charter School Commission tries to maximize the flexibility of our authorized charter schools, and our engagement efforts consistently identify that schools have diverse needs and are best equipped to address those needs. In engaging in the revision process we:

- Released a stakeholder survey requesting feedback, which was shared via our newsletter and on our website
- Presented the ESSER revision process at our January Commission meeting
- Held open office hours and feedback sessions for school stakeholders
- Worked with school/network teams to collect their plans, documents, and needs directly
- Consulted with the Davidson and Shelby County Health Departments

We let schools drive their school planning process, while maintaining oversight and feedback loops to ensure schools were thoughtfully planning for the use of funds.

Additionally, we require our schools to document how they engaged their school community stakeholders in the development of their plans and documents.

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

The TPCSC identified contacts at the Shelby and Davidson County health departments. We connected with these contacts for updated guidance as we prepared the revised plan, and participated in webinars geared toward school and district leaders, and shared information as applicable.

Provide to 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.

<p><i>Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies</i></p> <p>The Tennessee Public Charter School Commission provides updated guidance, information about, and oversight of legal requirements necessary for school policies; however, each charter schools is responsible for developing their own COVID-response health and safety policies and procedures. We have reviewed and provided feedback as needed on school health and safety policies and procedures. While we have shared updates, we have not made any changes to our policies over the past 6 months. School specific information is summarized below.</p> <p>NCP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accommodations will be made to individuals with certain disabilities or that are at high-risk for infection. Accommodations will include but not limited to no mask requirement, and online instruction alternative as opposed to in-person instruction for homebound or quarantined students. <p>KIPP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - KIPP Nashville has adopted comprehensive COVID-19 health and safety protocols, which are available on their website in English, Spanish, and Arabic. <p>BLUFF CITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -
<p><i>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</i></p> <p>The Tennessee Public Charter School Commission provides updated guidance, information about, and oversight of legal requirements necessary for school policies; however, each charter schools is responsible for developing their own COVID-response health and safety policies and procedures. We have reviewed and provided feedback as needed on school health and safety policies and procedures. While we have shared updates, we have not made any changes to our policies over the past 6 months. School specific information is outlined below.</p> <p>NCP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Physical distancing of 6 feet shall be maintained in the classrooms, drop-off and pick-up, outside play, meals and snack time, transportation, PE/Gymnasium, and hallways. <p>KIPP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social Distancing – students and staff will be socially distant in all space to maximum extent possible and practical. <p>BLUFF CITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The desks in the classroom were reduced (15) and the cafeteria (75) to ensure students were seated 6 feet apart during classes and lunch breaks. The hallways have markers on the floors and the walls to mark 6 feet apart for students.

Hand washing and respiratory etiquette

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NCP

- Students, teachers, and staff shall practice frequent hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water is not readily available, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol may be used. Hand washing will be required before and after touching eyes, nose, mouth, or mask; meals or snacks; and coughing or sneezing.

KIPP

- Students and staff must frequently and thoroughly wash their hands throughout the day. Hand sanitizer will be in every room and additional stations strategically placed throughout the school.

BLUFF CITY

- Each teacher classroom is equipped with a sanitation station for immediate needs within the classroom. Students used the school's restrooms to wash hands and there were hand sanitizing stations placed in the school's hallways. The water fountains in the hallways were disabled and students were provided bottles of water.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation

The Tennessee Public Charter School Commission provides updated guidance, information about, and oversight of legal requirements necessary for school policies; however, each charter schools is responsible for developing their own COVID-response health and safety policies and procedures. We have reviewed and provided feedback as needed on school health and safety policies and procedures. While we have shared updates, we have not made any changes to our policies over the past 6 months. School specific information is included below.

NCP

- The school shall adhere to CDC guidance on ventilation of the school to improve air quality such as ensuring HVAC systems are maintained, adjusting the HVAC system for fresh air, and opening windows. The school will use EPA-registered disinfectants that are active against SARS-COV-2. The frequency of sanitation will be increased in high volume areas and objects such as doorknobs, light switches, toys, equipment, and restrooms. Staff will be required to wear gloves and surgical mask when performing cleaning activities.

KIPP

- Schools are cleaned and disinfected each evening, with spot cleaning of high touch areas throughout the day.
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Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine

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NCP

- As part of the screening of questions asked to visitors, students, teachers, and staff at the beginning of the day provides a relative contact tracing for individuals who have been in contact with someone, tested positive, or is having symptoms. If an individual is showing symptoms, has a temperature of 100.40 degrees Fahrenheit, have been in contact with an individual who has COVID-19, or test positive shall remain at home. Over the next 14 days, the individual shall monitor their health and isolate from others in the household. Individuals may return to the school after the 14 days isolation period if having a confirmed case or 3 days after improved symptoms and fever.

KIPP

- Students who develop a fever or symptoms during the day will go to the Care Room until they are picked up. Parents are requested to make every effort to pick up their students as soon as possible.
- Campus visitors are limited to essential school operations.

BLUFF CITY

- Prior to entering the school, students were temperature screened and if a student had a temperature they would go to the COVID Room to see the school's full-time nurse. The nurse would keep the student isolated and contact the parent for pick-up. The parent would be provided with information along with locations for rapid tests.
- Staff members were able to receive a weekly COVID-19 rapid results testing from the school nurse. If interested the staff member would sign up for a date and time to test. This process allowed for us to actively contact trace if a staff member' test results were positive.

Diagnostic and screening testing

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we have shared updates, we have not made any changes to our policies over the past 6 months. School specific information is summarized below.

NCP

- Screening will include, but not limited to, thermometer scans at the entrance of the school, visual inspection to locate signs of COVID, and asking students and teachers a series of questions to identify if any symptoms or contact has occurred. Individuals who have a fever of 100.40 degrees Fahrenheit, show any signs, or have answered questions affirmatively. If a student needs to be sent home the school will isolate the student until the parent is able to pick up said student.

KIPP

- Students who develop a fever or symptoms during the day will go to the Care Room until they are picked up. Parents are requested to make every effort to pick up their students as soon as possible.
- An "At-Home Symptom Check" checklist is provided to families, and is available in English, Spanish, and Arabic. Rapid covid tests are available at school for anyone who is present and symptomatic.

BLUFF CITY

- Prior to entering the school, students were temperature screened and if a student had a temperature they would go to the COVID Room to see the school's full-time nurse. The nurse would keep the student isolated and contact the parent for pick-up. The parent would be provided with information along with locations for rapid tests.

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

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NCP

- School is not applicable to provide vaccinations

KIPP

- KIPP has hosted multiple vaccination clinics and encourages staff and families with students over 12 to be vaccinated.

BLUFF CITY

- The school site, through a partnership with LifeDoc and ShotRX, serves as a vaccination site for the community. We have held several events encouraging and providing access for all to receive the COVID-19 vaccination.

Universal and correct wearing of masks

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NCP

- Employees, guests, and students are not required, but suggested to wear masks when in the building. Individuals that will be exempt from wearing a mask are young children under the age of 2 or will not tolerate wearing a mask by constantly playing with or chewing on their masks; anyone who has trouble breathing, unconscious, incapacitated, or unable to remove their mask without assistance; anyone who has certain disabilities who cannot safely wear a mask; personnel for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to workplace; and individuals who are fully vaccinated. Individuals who are wearing a mask will wear on that is fitted, covering the mouth and nose and follows the material recommendations made by the CDC.

KIPP

- Students and staff will be highly encouraged to wear masks indoors. Schools will be provided with an ample supply of items to promote healthy hygiene behaviors, so they can be distributed throughout campus. Sneeze guards are provided for every students.

BLUFF CITY

- Prior to the return to campus, meetings were conducted with parents and students on the expectations to ensure student safety. Signage was created and displayed around the school to serve as reminders to always wear their masks. PPE materials were used to provide masks for students who needed them. These materials were stored in several locations around the school campus (cafeteria, entry way, teachers' classrooms). A comprehensive supervision plan was developed to ensure we followed all CDC guidelines prior to students entering the school campus.

3. Provide a current description as to how the LEA is ensuring 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 Tennessee Public Charter School Commission required schools to document that they were providing an in-person option for all students, and shared updates on state guidance and requirements for continuity of services. We provide support and technical for school and network staff.

We requested all schools provide an update on their efforts, which are summarized below:

- BCHS - For the 2021 – 2022 school year Bluff City High School has returned to fully in-person learning providing complete programming. To further services provided, Bluff City High School has added two social workers, and a student support specialist to the staff. Bluff City High School has also contracted with Lavinia Group to tailor learning and PD to better meet COVID student needs.

- KACPE/KACPM – KIPP maintained and increased our full scope of intervention and mental health supports for this school year to ensure students, families, and staff members felt fully supported. In addition, we increased our health staffing to ensure nursing staff remained available full time at our schools.
- NCP - The school will still provide meals to students in need and additional technology support to students and teacher in case of quarantine or rise in COVID-19 cases.