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

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Introduction

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plans (ARP) Act was signed into law. In it, the U.S. Department of Education is providing an additional $121.9 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III Fund). This legislation will award grants to state educational agencies (SEAs) for providing local educational agencies (LEAs) with emergency relief funds to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the nation.

South Carolina will receive $2,112,051,487 in ESSER III funds from the Act, with 90 percent being awarded to school districts with amounts determined in proportion to the amount of Title I, Part A funds they received in summer 2020 from funds under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The remaining funds will be used for state-level activities to address issues caused by COVID-19.

This plan describes how the LEA or district will provide the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services for all schools, including those that have already returned to in-person instruction. This report template complies with all reporting requirements of the ARP Act (Public Law 117-2), the ESSER III grant terms, conditions, and assurances (CFDA Number 84.425U), and the interim final rule established by the United States Department of Education, 86 FR 21195.

Maintaining Health and Safety

Overview

A district's plan must include how it will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and LEA staff, and the extent to which it has adopted policies or practices and a description of any such policies or practices, on each of the CDC's safety recommendations including: universal and correct wearing of masks; modifying facilities to allow for 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, in collaboration with the state, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments; diagnostic and screening testing; efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible; appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies or practices; and coordination with state and local health officials.

Description of maintaining health and safety (click box to scroll)

Staff are instrumental in minimizing the impact of the COVID epidemic in our prisons, our communities, and in our state. Note the CDC recommendations of masking, social distancing, routine testing, and avoiding large crowds. Visit the DHEC website to see a complete list of those eligible for the vaccine and the Guidance for COVID-19 Scenarios for Businesses.

Policies or Practices Regarding CDC Recommendations

Universal and correct wearing of masks
Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable (click box to scroll)

Employees are required to wear a face mask and practice social distancing while in the office. SCDC anticipates that there will be a lot of questions about returning to work, so we are including guidance in the form of Frequently Asked Questions. Additionally, people can contact the Office of Human Resources with any questions and/or concerns at (803) 896-1646.

Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)
Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable (click box to scroll)

PUSD will use desk shields to prevent the transmission of bodily fluid during face to face instruction with students. Desk shields will assist the teaching staff and promote interaction with students.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable (click box to scroll)

Agencies and institutions should still employ measures to reduce the likelihood of transmission in the workplace including, but not limited to, requiring employees to wear masks in state government buildings, reminding employees to wash hands frequently, maintaining directional signs to manage the flow of people in the buildings, disinfecting high touch services and directing employees to stay home when they are not feeling well.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation
Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable (click box to scroll)

Palmetto Unified School District follows the policies set in place by SCDC.

Facilities are cleaned, disinfected, and fogged according to SCDC policies and schedules.

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Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine
Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable (click box to scroll)

All employees are contacted traced through scanning of their IDs when entering their schools. Temperature tests are done daily. Students and staff are tested biweekly and are quarantined as necessary.

All guidelines regarding isolation and quarantine are still applicable. Agencies and institutions should continue to rely on DHEC's Interim Guidance for COVID-19 Scenarios for Businesses.

https://scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/media/document/COVID-19-DHEC-Interim-Guidance-for-COVID-19-Scenarios-for-Businesses_12.17.2020.pdf

Diagnostic and screening testing
Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable (click box to scroll)

Additionally, all employees returning to work are encouraged to get tested and receive negative results before their return to work date. There are testing sites available on the Broad River campus, at several SCDC institutions (please see SCDC website for locations and testing times) as well as DHEC testing sites throughout the community. All employees will be required to complete a SCDC Form M216 and a temperature check by the front gate/desk. If an employee has any COVID-19 symptoms, he/she should call the COVID-19 hotline at (803) 8960323.

Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible
Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable (click box to scroll)

SCDC encourages our staff to get vaccinated (COVID) when eligible. The state's plan includes people with disabilities, health risks, state and local correctional facility staff with direct inmate contact and those who are unable to socially distance in the workplace.

Staff have been encouraged to get vaccinated. All students (who are SC Dept of Corrections inmates) have been given the opportunity get vaccinated.

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and practices
Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable (click box to scroll)

Agencies may receive requests for accommodation based on other types of disabilities, such as anxiety. Each request for an accommodation should be handled on a case-by-case basis and in a manner consistent with the ADA, FMLA and other laws relevant to individuals with a disability and/or in need of medical leave.

Coordination with state and local health officials
Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable (click box to scroll)

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Continuity of Services

Overview

Districts must describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health and other needs, which may include student health and food services.

District response on continuity of services (click box to scroll)

Student health and food services are provided through SC Department of Corrections. Education staff provide referrals to health and mental health staff as necessary. Education is currently providing direct face to face instruction but can transition to virtual learning if that avenue becomes necessary. The infrastructure for virtual learning was put into place during the previous COVID shut down.

Periodic Review

Overview

Districts are required to review and, as appropriate, revise their Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan at least every six months through September 30, 2023, including seeking public input and taking such input into account in determining whether to revise the plan and, if revisions are determined necessary, on the revisions it makes to its plan.

If a district developed a plan prior to enactment of the ARP Act that was made publicly available and was developed with public comment, but does not address each of the required aspects of safety established in the ARP Act, the district must, as part of the required periodic review, revise its plan consistent with the ARP Act requirements no later than six months after it last reviewed its plan.

District response on ensuring periodic updates to its plan (click box to scroll)

Palmetto Unified School District will review its plan after each School Board Meeting.

Dates of School Board Meetings:

July 13 2023
October 5 2023
January 4 2024
April 4 2024

Public Input

Overview

The ARP Act requires that school districts make their Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan available to the public online and that the plans be in an understandable and uniform format; to the extent practicable, are 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.

Before making its plan publicly available, school districts must seek public comment on the plan and develop the plan after taking into account public comment.

District response on public input in development of its plan (click box to scroll)

Would additional technology be beneficial for student use in the classroom? (Teacher)
Yes, always because it can provide more options for diverse instruction with diverse learners
Yes
Yes.
No
Yes.
Yes
Smart Boards in the classrooms with Lectures saving capabilities, HDMI Cords with good enough length, Headphones, Tablets to be allowed in school building...
Having additional projectors would be helpful and useful in our class. We currently share one projector between 3 teachers.
Yes
Yes
Yes. .
yes
Yes It would.I do not have telephone line or a computer line in my area. They did not run the lines either.
Yes, a smart board would be helpful for teaching in my classroom for inter active teaching using Milady, Redken, You Tube, and other Barber educators for Theory lessons.
Yes
N/A
Yes
Yes
I believe we are well stocked regarding technology.
Additional computer programs tailored for TABE and GED preparation would be useful.
yes we have no student computers and I don`t have a a smart board or a projector in my classroom.
N/A
yes. It would allow for more interactive lessons to be taught with the use of technology. We do not currently have access to you tube for lessons we get sent links to, so that would also have to be fixed. This would be very helpful when teaching difficult math concepts and would allow a different teaching method to be shown when the methods we use aren't working. We also still need our computer lab to be completed. Right now we are waiting on wires to be run so that we can use it.
YES