

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



District Name	Marion County School District			
Email	lsturkey@marion.k12.sc.us			
Website	http://marion.k12.sc.us/			
Phone	843-423-1811 ext. 1002			
Address	City	State	Zip Code	
719 North Main Street	Marion	SC	29571	

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Maintaining Health and Safety	4
Overview	4
Description of maintaining health and safety	4
Policies or Practices Regarding CDC Recommendations	5
Universal and correct wearing of masks	5
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	5
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	5
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	6
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine	6
Diagnostic and screening testing	6
Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible	7
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and practices	7
Coordination with state and local health officials.	7
Continuity of Services	8
Overview	8
District response on continuity of services	8
Periodic Review	9
Overview	9
District response on ensuring periodic updates to its plan	9
Public Input	10
Overview	10
District response on public input in development of its plan	10

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)

Marion County School District has used various approaches to maintain a safe and healthy environment within its schools. Those steps included masks, desk shields, social distancing in all facilities, limited visitation for all facilities, hybrid instruction, turned off all water fountains, hand sanitizing systems are stationed throughout each facility, and electrostatic and hydrostatic sprayers are used in buildings and buses multiples times each day.

Marion County School District is replacing water fountains with bottle refilling stations during the summer of 2021.

The district is exploring purchasing and installing Bi-Polar Ionization devices in HVAC systems

Policies or Practices Regarding CDC Recommendations

Universal and correct wearing of masks

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable (click box to scroll)

Marion County School District will continue to follow the guidelines of the CDC and DHEC for the 2021-2022 school year.

Students on school buses are required to wear mask or face masks. Face mask must cover the nose and mouth.

Students are currently required to wear mask, parents can choose to opt out of mask wearing. The district will continue to offer the option to opt out.

Policy ADD face coverings

Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable (click box to scroll)

All student desk were provided desk shields.

Social distancing markers were placed throughout each school.

Desks are socially distant.

Breakfast and lunch served in classrooms in primary, elementary, and middle schools.

Buses operated at 67% capacity. Students are assigned seats on buses.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable (click box to scroll)

Marion County School District has installed sanitizing strategically placed throughout each district owned facility.

Hand sanitizers were provided for classrooms, in the lobby, and the main office. Gloves are also available for students and staff.

Classrooms are equipped with hand sanitizer and hand wipes.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable (click box to scroll)

Electrostatic sprayers are used in classrooms daily.

Electrostatic sprayers are used frequently throughout each day in high contact areas.

Hydrostatic sprayers are used on buses each morning and each afternoon.

The district is purchasing bipolar ionizers for HVAC systems.

Upgrades are going to be made to old HVAC systems.

Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable (click box to scroll)

Marion County School District nurses have and will continue to perform contact tracing.

Nurses constantly provides updates to senior level staff weekly.

A room has been dedicated for symptomatic persons.

Schools nurses coordinates quarantine periods with, students, and staff with DHEC. HR, school and district administrations are notified of quarantine periods.

Diagnostic and screening testing

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable (click box to scroll)

The district does not conduct testing for Covid-19.

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

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable (click box to scroll)

Marion County School District has partnered with MUSC Marion to provide vaccinations for staff. The district will continue to partner with local health providers to provide vaccinations.

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)

Marion County School District will continue employ practices designed to protect the healthy and safety of children with disabilities. IEP and 504 teams will meet to determine if modifications are necessary for students with disabilities when those situations arise.

Coordination with state and local health officials

Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable (click box to scroll)

Marion County School District has and will continue to partner with SC DHEC, and local health care providers. Marion County School District will continue to follow CDC, SC DHEC, and the US Department of Transportation guidelines pertaining to face coverings, social distancing and contact tracing.

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)

Marion County School District will begin the 2021-22 school year on a traditional five-day per week, face-to-face instructional schedule. The district will also provide a full-time virtual program for students in grades 2-12.

Spring 2021 and Fall 2021 data will be used as baseline measures to determine academic gaps in reading and math. Reading and math interventions will occur in the classroom and by certified interventionists during the school day. Kindergarten – 5th grade teachers will utilize the Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment Systems to determine students independent and instructional reading levels in the fall, winter, and spring. Teachers will be able to observe student reading behaviors and engage in comprehension conversations. Literacy and math academic growth and achievement for students in K-10 will be assessed using NWEA MAP assessments in fall, winter, and spring.

For schools offering end of course assessments, state-provided strand data as well as the state data review will be utilized to guide our instruction. District common-assessment data will be utilized to monitor growth and progress in EOC courses throughout the year. Schools will provide ongoing support for academically at-risk students through small-group instruction, interventions, credit recovery, and tutoring. All high schools will continue to strive to increase the number of students who are deemed college- or career-ready and to increase the number of students who are on-time graduates. In addition, schools will continue to develop and implement strategies to improve all state report card measures.

The district will follow the guidelines established for students with disabilities. When necessary, IEP or 504 teams will met to ensure students are being served appropriately.

Marion County School District will continue provide nutritious meals that follow guidelines established by the USDA and the South Carolina Department Health and Environment Control.

Social Emotional Learning

Marion County School will continue to take time to cultivate and deepen relationships, build partnerships and plan for SEL.

Marion County School District has designed opportunities where adults can connect, heal and build their capacity to support students.

Marion County School District will create safe, supportive, and equitable learning environments that promote all students' social and emotional development.

Marion County School District will use data as an opportunity to share power, deepen relationships, and continuously improve supports for students, families and staff.

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)

Marion County School District will review the plan every six months. The district will seek public input during each review process. The plan will be on the district website, and social media outlets.

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)

A copy of the Marion County School District plan will be placed on the district's webpage to seek feedback from stakeholders.

The Marion County School District Board of Trustees will also receive a copy of the plan and provide feedback.