

Continuity of Education Plan

Intermediate Unit	BLaST Intermediate Unit #17
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Goal of Plan
<p>In response to continued school closures as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the goal of BLaST Intermediate Unit #17 is to provide continued educational opportunities that are in alignment with the continuity of education option selected by each student's home school district. The BLaST Intermediate Unit #17 professional staff will be asked to provide students in IU operated school age classroom programs with access to enrichment and review activities and/or develop planned courses of instruction through a variety of platforms dependent upon the student populations being served and the home district's continuity of education plan. Some of these platforms include ZOOM, EQUIP, Class Dojo, and Google Classrooms that align with the information in this plan. This continuity of education plan was developed in alignment to guidance provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the continuity of education plans provided by our nineteen constituent school districts. This plan provides an overview of the continuity of education plan that will be provided by BLaST Intermediate Unit #17 in its school age classrooms, center-based programs, and eligible children receiving special education supports and services in the BLaST Intermediate Unit Early Intervention Program. As staff encounter questions unique to each instructional situation, they are to contact their respective BLaST Intermediate Unit #17 program supervisor for guidance and support.</p>

Overview of Plan
<p>All students being educated within school age programs operated by BLaST Intermediate Unit #17 will receive some form of continuity of education support, either through the provision of enrichment/review activities or planned courses of instruction. The decision as to whether a student is provided with enrichment/review activities or planned courses of instruction is dependent upon the continuity of education plan in place at each individual student's home school district. BLaST Intermediate Unit #17 will mirror for each student the same level of support that would be provided if the student were being educated in his/her home school district. Enrichment/review activities or planned courses of instruction will be provided face to face virtually (when possible) or through other modes of instruction (paper resources, telephone consultation). Teachers will provide instruction in a variety of ways within the virtual</p>

environment. It is important to take into account the different home education settings and student ability among our student population that may not permit them to participate in synchronous (live) educational opportunities. Instruction will be designed in a manner that allows for greater flexibility for students and families (on their own time and in their own space).

All children who are eligible for and receive Early Intervention services through BLaST Intermediate Unit #17 will be transitioning from enrichment and review activities to the provision of planned instruction activities aligned to each child's individual needs as of May 4, 2020. These planned instructional activities can be provided virtually or through the paper/pencil packets with follow up telephone consultation from your child's teacher and/or therapist(s). Telephone consultations will enable Early Intervention staff to better tailor your child's educational supports, to the extent we are able, as we all learn more about your child's experience with this new learning experience. Evaluations for children transitioning to Early Intervention from Birth to Three programs as well as evaluations for new referrals in the order in which the referral was received will be conducted virtually when feasible.

Expectations for Teaching and Learning

Continuity of education can take two forms: the provision of enrichment/review activities or the provision of planned instruction. The continuity of education for students who attend classroom programs operated by BLaST Intermediate Unit #17 is determined by the continuity of education option selected by each student's home school district.

Specifically, the BLaST Intermediate Unit #17 classroom program provision will be sure to adhere to the following for each district-selected option:

Enrichment and Review will consist of voluntary informal activities to reinforce or extend students' prior learning. No new standards and/or skills will be introduced.

Planned Instruction will provide formal teaching and learning similar to that which occurs in a classroom setting through remote delivery options. Teachers will continue with the planned courses of instruction to teach new concepts/skills aligned to grade level standards. Teachers will assess the learning of students and adjust instruction based upon student progress.

In addition to these two continuity of education options, BLaST Intermediate Unit #17 recognizes that LEAs may choose to employ a **combination of enrichment and review and planned instruction** based on the needs of the district student population. When customized approaches are included in the home district's continuity of education plan, the BLaST Intermediate Unit #17 will provide the same consistency for students who attend classroom programs.

The following is an overview of how each IU 17 program will support Continuity of Education:

Clear Vision: Students in grades 7-12 receiving their education while residing at Clear Vision will receive their instruction virtually by gathering in the main classrooms while supervised by Clear Vision staff. The provision of planned instruction virtually is in accordance with the continuity of education option selected by the Montgomery Area School District, which is the LEA in which the facility resides. Students will receive planned course instruction that will allow them to earn grades and course credits (seniors will earn grades and course credits to graduate). Students will be assigned to online core academic courses in English, Math, Science and Social Studies/History, using the online platform. For seniors, passing grades, earned credits before the closure, and earning final course credits are necessary to meet graduation requirements. Electives will be offered as an enrichment option.

Teachers will provide direct and indirect teaching as well as utilize a variety of global resources as enhancement to the academic online classroom. Teachers will work with the students to provide for their individual academic needs. Teachers will be utilizing the ZOOM platform for delivery of instruction.

LaSaQuik: Students residing at LaSaQuik will receive their differentiated enrichment and review activities virtually via gathering in the main classroom while supervised by LaSaQuik staff. The provision of differentiated enrichment/review activities to students in grades 7-11th receiving their educational services at LaSaQuik is in accordance with the continuity of education option selected by the Williamsport Area School District, which is the LEA in which the facility resides. Students will receive online courses for enrichment and review that will provide practice for students to extend their prior learning before the school closure. Students will be assigned to online core academic courses that will review previously taught content in English, Math, Science, and Social Studies/History, using the online platform. Electives will be offered as an enrichment option.

Teachers will provide virtual check-ins and support as well as utilize a variety of global resources as enrichment/review to previously taught content. Teachers will work with the students to provide for their individual academic needs. Teachers will be utilizing the ZOOM platform for delivery of differentiated enrichment/review activities. Should the Williamsport Area School District transition to the provision of planned instruction for students in 7th-11th, teachers at LaSaQuik will also transition to the provision of planned instruction virtually to students residing at LaSaQuik.

Students in 12th grade who are residing at LaSaQuik will receive planned course instruction that will allow them to earn final grades and course credits to graduate. Students will be assigned to online core academic courses in English, Math, Science and Social Studies/History, using an online platform. Passing grades, earned credits before the closure, and earning final course credits are necessary to meet graduation requirements. Electives will be offered as an enrichment option.

North & South Academy Programs (inclusive of emotional support, partial programs and AEDY programming): Students receiving their educational services at either the North or South Academy program locations will receive either enrichment/review activities or planned instruction either virtually through ZOOM, Google classroom, and/or Class Dojo or through the provision of paper/pencil resources that will be supported by telephone consultations from teachers. Teachers will work with the parents/guardians and/or students to

support individual student needs with planned instruction or enrichment/review activities. The provision of enrichment/review activities or planned instruction is in accordance with the continuity of education option selected by each student's home school district. Should the student's home school district transition from enrichment/review activities to planned instruction, the teaching staff at both Academy program locations will also transition to the provision of planned instruction. For students participating in emotional support and AEDY programming, licensed social workers will use ZOOM to connect with students for the provision of social/emotional support. For students participating in the Partial Hospitalization Program, treatment team leaders have continued to provide both individual and family therapy sessions via ZOOM. Group therapy sessions will be initiated when educational supports are added and psychiatrists will be connecting with students and families for the purpose of checking in and medication management through telephone and/or face to face virtual contact through ZOOM.

IU operated inter-district classroom programs: Students who are receiving their instruction in IU operated emotional support, learning support, life skills support, autistic support, and multi disability support classroom programs will receive either enrichment/review activities or planned instruction either virtually through ZOOM, Google classroom, and/or Class Dojo or through the provision of paper/pencil resources that will be supported by telephone consultations from teachers. Teachers will work with the parents/guardians and/or students to support individual student needs with planned instruction or enrichment/review activities. The provision of enrichment/review activities or planned instruction is in accordance with the continuity of education option selected by each student's home school district. Should the student's home school district transition from enrichment/review activities to planned instruction, the teaching staff in each classroom program will transition to the provision of planned instruction for students of the respective home district.

Nonpublic Schools:

Bradford County: Students receiving their educational services at Epiphany or St. Agnes will receive planned instruction virtually through ZOOM. Teachers will work with the parents/guardians and/or students to support individual student needs with planned instruction activities. The provision of planned instruction is in accordance with the continuity of education option selected by each nonpublic school entity. Students receiving their educational services at North Rome Christian School will initially receive instructional packets with enrichment/review activities for the first two weeks with telephone consultation from teachers.. As of Monday, April 6th, students will transition into the provision of planned instruction activities virtually through ZOOM. Teachers will continue to work with the parents/guardians and/or students to support individual student needs with planned instruction activities.

Tioga County: Students receiving their educational services at New Covenant Academy will receive planned instruction virtually through ZOOM for those students who have technology and internet access. For those students who do not have a device and/or internet access, planned instructional activities will be provided through instructional packets mailed home and telephone consultation from the teacher. Teachers will work with the parents/guardians

and/or students to support individual student needs with planned instruction activities. The provision of planned instruction is in accordance with the continuity of education option selected by the nonpublic school entity. Students receiving their educational services at Trinity Lutheran School will initially receive instructional packets with enrichment/review activities that will be mailed home to students and supported through telephone consultation. Students will be transitioning to planned instruction provided virtually through ZOOM for those students who have technology and internet access. For those students who do not have a device and/or internet access, planned instructional activities will be provided through instructional packets mailed home and telephone consultation from the teacher. Teachers will work with the parents/guardians and/or students to support individual student needs with enrichment/review and planned instruction activities. The provision of enrichment/ review activities with the transition to planned instruction is in accordance with the continuity of education option selected by the nonpublic school entity.

Lycoming County: Students receiving their educational services at Mountain View, St. John Neumann Regional Academy and West Branch will receive planned instruction virtually through ZOOM. Teachers will work with the parents/guardians and/or students to support individual student needs with planned instruction activities. The provision of planned instruction is in accordance with the continuity of education option selected by each nonpublic school entity. Students receiving their educational services at Fairfield Academy and Walnut Street Christian School will initially receive paper/pencil packets with enrichment/review activities with telephone consultation from teachers. Teachers will continue to work with the parents/guardians and/or students to support individual student needs with enrichment/review activities. The provision of planned instruction or enrichment/review packets is in accordance with the continuity of education option selected by the nonpublic school entity.

Itinerant Services: The provision of related services (OT/PT/Speech/Hearing/Vision/Orientation & Mobility) is at the discretion of the family and is occurring either F2F virtually through planned instruction if there is internet access and access to a device. If there is no device and/or no internet access, instructional packets with enrichment/review activities are being offered along with telephone consultation. Families may opt out of the provision of related services either through virtual planned instruction or provision of enrichment/review activities virtually or through packets, and the IEP team may consider modifications to service frequency/duration during the pandemic.

Gifted Support Services: Students receiving gifted support services at Canton Area School District will be provided with enrichment/review activities either virtually through Google classroom sites or via paper/pencil packets if there is no access to technology or internet services. Students at Athens Area School District will be provided with planned instruction virtually in order to meet the needs of gifted students. Gifted support teachers will work with the parents/guardians and/or students to support individual student needs with planned instruction or enrichment/review activities. The provision of enrichment/review activities or planned instruction is in accordance with the continuity of education option selected by each student's home school district.

Itinerant Emotional Support Services: Students receiving itinerant emotional support services at South Williamsport Area School District will be provided with enrichment/review activities either virtually or via paper/pencil packets if there is no access to technology or internet services. Students who received itinerant emotional support services at Loyalsock Township School District will be provided with planned instruction virtually for middle/high school students and enrichment/review activities for elementary students either virtually if students have a device and internet access or through the provision of enrichment/review activities. The itinerant emotional support teacher will work with the parents/guardians and/or students to support individual student needs with planned instruction or enrichment/review activities. The provision of enrichment/review activities or planned instruction is in accordance with the continuity of education option selected by each student's home school district.

Lycoming Day Treatment: Students who are receiving their instruction through Lycoming Day Treatment will receive either enrichment/review activities or planned instruction virtually through ZOOM and/or Google classroom. Teachers will work with the parents/guardians and/or students to support individual student needs with planned instruction or enrichment/review activities. The provision of enrichment/review activities or planned instruction is in accordance with the continuity of education option selected by each student's home school district. Should the student's home school district transition from enrichment/review activities to planned instruction, the teaching staff in each classroom program will transition to the provision of planned instruction for students of the respective home district.

BSI: Students who are receiving their instruction through BSI will receive either enrichment/review activities or planned instruction virtually through Lifesize technology and Google classroom or the provision of paper/pencil packets if a student does not have internet access. Teachers will work with the parents/guardians and/or students to support individual student needs with planned instruction or enrichment/review activities. The provision of enrichment/review activities or planned instruction is in accordance with the continuity of education option selected by each student's home school district. Should the student's home school district transition from enrichment/review activities to planned instruction, the teaching staff in each classroom program will transition to the provision of planned instruction for students of the respective home district.

Tioga County Partial Programs (Elkland/Mansfield): Students who are receiving their instruction at either Tioga County Partial program will receive either enrichment/review activities or planned instruction virtually through ZOOM and/or Google classroom or the provision of paper/pencil packets if a student does not have a device or internet access. Teachers will work with the parents/guardians and/or students to support individual student needs with planned instruction or enrichment/review activities. The provision of enrichment/review activities or planned instruction is in accordance with the continuity of education option selected by each student's home school district. Should the student's home school district transition from enrichment/review activities to planned instruction, the teaching staff in each classroom program will transition to the provision of planned instruction for

students of the respective home district. Counseling supports will continue to be provided by Concern.

Behavioral Health Unit/Robert Packer Hospital: Students who are admitted to the behavioral health unit will have the opportunity to engage in grade level instructional opportunities in the four core content areas through provision of paper/pencil packets as student do not have access to technology or internet during this inpatient hospitalization stay. There will be no provision of face to face instruction during the COVID-19 pandemic at the request of the Sayre Area School District, the LEA in which the hospital resides.

Early Intervention (3-5 years): This section was revised on 04/27/2020 to reflect the change from enrichment and review to planned instruction as of 05/04/2020. The BLaST Intermediate Unit #17 Early Intervention program plans to initiate temporary, pandemic related changes to your child's educational program and placement. Specifically, during the time of mandated school closure only, the Early Intervention program proposes to initiate special education and related services through the provision of planned instructional activities aligned to your child's individual needs. These planned instructional activities can be provided virtually or through the paper/pencil packets with follow up telephone consultation from your child's teacher and/or therapist(s). Telephone consultations will enable Early Intervention staff to better tailor your child's educational supports, to the extent we are able, as we all learn more about your child's experience with this new learning experience. You should also feel free to contact your child's special education teacher and/or therapist(s) if you are having difficulties accessing virtual learning or completing paper/pencil resources.

We recognize that some students will not be able to participate fully in, or will gain only limited benefit from, these virtual or paper/pencil planned instructional activities. Once the school reopens, we will resume your child's educational program and placement as described in his/her IEP, and we will be discussing at IEP team meetings whether your child might require additional programming or services to address any learning problems the period of school closure might have caused.

Communication Tools and Strategies

BLaST Intermediate Unit #17 will be providing communication to parents, students, and the community on a regular basis by utilizing the following methods: IU 17 Social Media accounts (Facebook: www.facebook.com/iu17, Twitter: www.twitter.com/blastiu17), and the BLaST Intermediate Unit # 17 website: www.iu17.org. Parents of children receiving Early Intervention services from BLaST Intermediate Unit #17 will receive a written notification detailing how the Early Intervention program will be providing continuity of education support. For school age students who receive educational services through BLaST Intermediate Unit #17, each parent/guardian should receive written notification from your home school district in regard to the continuity of education plan chosen by each of our nineteen constituent districts. BLaST Intermediate Unit #17 will mirror for each student the

same level of support that would be provided if the student were being educated in his/her home school district.

Student Expectations

We understand that familial structure and supports have changed since the COVID-19 pandemic. There are some things that families can do to help support a sense of normalcy for both Early Intervention and school aged children. These include the following:

- Establish a work space for your child/student where he/she can complete enrichment/review or planned instruction activities
- Eliminate distractions that are not needed, such as television, radio, cell phones, and/or video games
- Support younger children and students in understanding and completing enrichment/review and/or planned instruction activities virtually or through paper/pencil packets
- Consider brain breaks opportunities for exercise, music, and/or art activities throughout the day
- Reach out to your child/student's teacher for additional support, if needed. We are all here to help support you through these uncertain times.

Attendance / Accountability

For students whose continuity of education programming involves the provision of planned instruction, teachers will be taking attendance in DaRTS and regular, consistent attendance at scheduled virtual instruction sessions is expected. New instruction in accordance to grade level standards will be provided. Course credit will be awarded and students receiving planned instruction will be expected to earn and maintain passing grades.

For students whose continuity of education programming involves enrichment/review activities, completion of these activities are optional. Activities will not be graded. Student participation is encouraged to maintain student's skills obtained prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Teachers will maintain records of individual parent contacts, student engagement in activities, and work completion as appropriate to the type of activities provided. For students in need of credit toward high school graduation or grade level promotion, work will be graded as an accountability measure.

Good Faith Efforts for Access and Equity for All Students

BLaST Intermediate Unit #17 has developed its plan in consideration of the needs of diverse learners and families across programs. The plan provides options to engage learners from Pre-K to 12 which is in alignment to the student's home district continuity of education programming for K-12 students. Continuity of education will be provided through use of virtual learning options, distribution of materials/printed resources, and one-to-one conferencing. Options for individual, small group, and large group instruction in synchronous or asynchronous means were also considered. Additional considerations for special education

supports, English Learner supports, and Gifted Education are outlined in the following sections.

Special Education Supports

BLaST Intermediate Unit #17 will collaborate with our constituent districts to provide reasonable and appropriate special education support to students through virtual or other means in a good faith, best effort to provide continuity of education for all students identified as requiring special education services during the period of mandated school closure.

BLaST Intermediate Unit #17 educators and related service staff, in combination with our constituent districts, will initiate communication with families and students to assess current needs and concerns and gather input regarding priority areas of need. Educators will assess in-home supports and resources available to families to make decisions regarding learning platforms and materials needed.

For children receiving services through BLaST Intermediate Unit #17's Early Intervention program, families will be informed in writing about the enrichment/review services to be provided via online, virtual instruction or other means. On-going consultation, review of available data, and adjustments will be made as appropriate within the parameters of the Governor's orders surrounding closures, access of materials, and face-to-face interactions. Upon return to school, the IEP team will reassess to determine needs for any owed services.

EL Supports

BLaST Intermediate Unit #17 will provide English Learners with access to materials in their most fluent language and language interpreting services for parent consultation as appropriate. Educational teams in districts where ESL services are contracted through BLaST Intermediate Unit #17 will have access to a certified ESL teacher for consultation purposes if needs for additional support to IEP team members arise. Individualized support will be provided as reasonable and appropriate.

Gifted Education

Gifted Support Services: Students receiving gifted support services at Canton Area School District will be provided with enrichment/review activities either virtually through Google classroom sites or via paper/pencil packets if there is no access to technology or internet services. Students at Athens Area School District will be provided with planned instruction virtually in order to meet the needs of gifted students. Gifted support teachers will work with the parents/guardians and/or students to support individual student needs with planned instruction or enrichment/review activities. The provision of enrichment/review activities or planned instruction is in accordance with the continuity of education option selected by each student's home school district.

Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) - Gifted Education Programs (GIEPs): as of April 1, 2020, GIEPs will be completed in accordance with due dates. The child's case manager will contact the parent/guardian to arrange a virtual or telephone conference.

Building/Grade Level Contacts

For additional information and support regarding continuity of education programming within each of the programs operated by BLaST Intermediate Unit #17, please reach out to your child/students' teacher and/or the BLaST Intermediate Unit #17 program supervisor.

Dan Coran (dcoran@iu17.org):

ClearVision

LaSaQuik

Jennifer Cronin (jcronin@iu17.org):

North Academy of Integrated Studies

Tim Hanner (thanner@iu17.org)

Itinerant emotional support

Gifted services

Contracted OT/PT services

Job coaching

Robin Holmes (rholmes@iu17.org):

Classroom programs (Emotional Support, Learning Support, Life Skills Support, Multi-Disability Support)

Ardis Mason (amason@iu17.org):

BSI

Lycoming Day Treatment

Tioga County Partial programs

Autistic Support classrooms (Loyalsock Township/Montoursville Area SD/Towanda/Wellsboro)

Maria Pierce (mpierce@iu17.org)

Autistic Support

CLM coaching

Andra Sauers (asauers@iu17.org)

South Academy of Integrated Studies

Angie Sees (asees@iu17.org)

Early Intervention

Rebecca Walters (rwalters@iu17.org)

North & South Academy Partial Hospitalization Programs

Tracy Wright (twright@iu17.org)

Itinerant services (speech/hearing/vision/ESL/orientation & mobility)

Amy Wolfhope-Briggs (abriggs@iu17.org)

Director of Student Services

Resource Links
<u>BLaST IU 17 Continuity of Education Resource Guide</u>
<u>BLaST IU 17 Online Learning Hub – Teacher Professional Learning</u>
<u>Pennsylvania Department of Education - COVID 19 Updates</u>
<u>Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN)</u>