



## **Health and Safety Plan Summary: BLaST Intermediate Unit 17**

Initial Effective Date: June 16, 2021

Date of Last Review: June 16, 2021, November 17, 2021 (must be reviewed every 6 months)

Date of Last Revision: November 17, 2021

- 1. How will the LEA, to the greatest extent practicable, support prevention and mitigation policies in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the CDC for the reopening and operation of school facilities in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning?**

All IU activities and decisions will be informed by the PA DOH, PDE, and our partner districts & agencies. Depending upon the public health conditions in any county within the Commonwealth, there could be additional actions, orders, or guidance provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and/or the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH). The IU will practice and support prevention and mitigation efforts in response to the changing conditions.

The IU is prepared to practice prevention and mitigation strategies along a continuum of least to most restrictive strategies in response to the changing conditions of the Pandemic.

In addition to practicing standard preventative measures such as handwashing, cleaning practices, and the option of PPE, the IU will continue to encourage the vaccination of students and staff. The IU will continue to practice standard mitigation efforts to include reducing close contact when feasible.

As long as there are cases of COVID-19 in the community, there are no strategies that can completely eliminate transmission risk within a school population.

- 2. How will the LEA ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address the students' academic needs, and students' and staff members' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services?**

Understanding that many scenarios may require a fluid transition between remote, blended and face to face options, BLaST has developed a Temporary Provision of Instruction that allows for ease of transition in learning from face-to-face, to blended approaches, to complete remote instruction. Within programs, teachers will work together to create a parallel learning system that highlights authentic learning experiences both in and out of the classroom. Teachers will create both synchronous and asynchronous experiences as students' transition between face-to-face instruction, hybrid and remote learning. Teachers will provide direct instruction, guided support, one-on-one feedback, assessments, progress monitoring and therapies through a variety of in-person and digital tools.

BLaST's Temporary Provision of Emergency Instruction plan considers the needs of diverse learners and families across unique programs. The plan provides options to engage learners from Pre-K to 12 which is in alignment to the instructional time provisions with the 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 will be integrated in partnership with the families and districts.

Instructional delivery will occur through the use of Zoom, live streaming, Seesaw, and Google Classrooms. The students will be using these platforms for blended instruction during onsite instruction as well, so there will be familiarity. Devices will be provided by the student's home district or the IU. For families without internet access, offline instructional materials will be provided and synchronous sessions will occur via phone conference.

As the circumstances evolve, BLaST will continue to work with partner school districts and agencies to adapt service delivery to meet the dynamic needs of families, students, and communities. Changes will be reviewed by the administration case-by-case. Attendance will be taken in school for all face-to-face learning days. On remote learning days, verification and completion of assignments will be counted as attendance and to track instructional hours. Students should complete work each day listed in the academic calendar, regardless of weather delays or closures.

3. **Use the table below to explain how the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policy on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC.**

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<b>a. Universal and correct wearing of <u>masks</u>;</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate effective face covering practices to all students and staff.</li> <li>• All IU staff and contractors, regardless of program location, will follow any current face covering order established by the PA DOH.</li> <li>• In stand-alone IU operated facilities (including IU offices, North and South Academies, Partial Hospitalization Program, Catawissa, Pine Street, and Towanda Progress Early Intervention Programs) all students and staff will follow any current face covering orders from the PA DOH.</li> <li>• Students in IU classrooms and programs located in a host district or agency will follow the host district or agency's Health &amp; Safety plan. This means if the host district requires the school to follow the mask order, then the students and staff in the IU classroom will follow the mask order. If the host district allows optional masking, then the <u>students only</u> may follow optional masking. ALL IU and</li> </ul>

	<p>contractors staff will still be required to mask, regardless of their location.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All implementation strategies will adhere to the student's IEP or 504 Plan.</li> </ul>
<p><b>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow the current CDC, PA DOH, and PDE requirements for physical distancing. Classroom-based IU programs will follow the requirements set forth by the host district or agency.</li> <li>• All implementation strategies will adhere to the student's IEP or 504 Plan.</li> <li>• When feasible, reduce opportunities for close contact</li> <li>• Provide standard PPE for all staff and students upon request.</li> </ul>
<p><b>c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u>;</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow the current CDC, PA DOH, and PDE requirements for handwashing and respiratory etiquette.</li> <li>• Classroom-based IU programs will follow the requirements set forth by the host district or agency.</li> <li>• Signage will continue to be posted to remind students and staff of proper handwashing techniques.</li> </ul>
<p><b>d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u>;</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow the current CDC, PA DOH, and PDE requirements for cleaning and ventilation.</li> <li>• Classroom-based IU programs will follow the requirements set forth by the host district or agency.</li> </ul>
<p><b>e. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow the current CDC, PA DOH, and PDE requirements for contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine.</li> <li>• Classroom-based IU programs will follow the requirements set forth by the host district or agency.</li> </ul>
<p><b>f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow any current diagnostic testing and screening procedures required of LEAs by the PA DOH or PDE.</li> </ul>
<p><b>g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>;</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow any current vaccination requirements for LEAs by PA DOH or PDE.</li> </ul>

h. <b>Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow all IEP and 504 accommodations as documented.</li> </ul>
i. <b>Coordination with state and local health officials.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain existing partnerships with local and state PA DOH, PDE, and emergency management. Refer to PA DOH as needed for guidance on responding to COVID situations.</li> </ul>

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors for **BLaST Intermediate Unit 17** reviewed and approved the Health and revision to the Safety Plan on **November 17, 2021**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

10 Yes  
2 No

Affirmed on: **November 17, 2021**

By:

Lori A Baer

(Signature\* of Board President)

Lori A Baer

(Print Name of Board President)

\*Electronic signatures on this document are acceptable using one of the two methods detailed below.

**Option A:** The use of actual signatures is encouraged whenever possible. This method requires that the document be printed, signed, scanned, and then submitted.

**Option B:** If printing and scanning are not possible, add an electronic signature using the resident Microsoft Office product signature option, which is free to everyone, no installation or purchase needed.