

**Title I Transition Plan  
Kindergarten, Elementary Grade Level Promotion, Elementary to Secondary  
and High School to College and Career  
2019-2020 School Year**

***Goals***

- 1) *To provide information and opportunities for students to ensure a seamless transition from preschool to kindergarten, from one elementary grade level to another, and from elementary to secondary programs.*
- 2) *To provide parents with information and opportunities to become informed about school and district curriculum, instruction, and assessment frameworks and relevant programs and services.*

**Armstrong School District Initiatives that Support Successful Transition to Kindergarten**

***Community Coordination and Collaboration***

The Armstrong School District promotes and supports coordination of services with community operated infant and toddler centers, as well as preschool early intervention programs. In addition, the district actively engages with agencies that support before and after school child care programs.

***Interagency Team Meetings***

The Armstrong School District initiates and participates in Interagency Team Meetings (ITM) and Children and Adolescent Service System Program (CASSP) meetings to collaboratively plan appropriate services with parents for students in school, at home, and within the community. School psychologists, special education coordinators, and the Transition Coordinator work with parents to help them access available (MH/MR) services within the community and special education services in schools; the aim is to inform and empower parents so they are able to make informed decisions regarding the mental health and educational needs of their children. Each year, parent information sessions are held on various topics related to specific disabilities and successful interventions. Parent and community agency personnel are closely involved in the planning and presentation of these sessions.

In February of each year, the district meets with key personnel from Early Intervention Programs to gather information regarding in-coming kindergarten students. The District's speech language pathologists perform speech and language assessments in various preschool and early intervention settings. Meetings occur in the month of May between these sending agencies and the school district. The principal and designated personnel meet with agency representatives to discuss needed programs and services for incoming kindergarten children.

### ***ARIN Intermediate Unit***

Our partnership with ARIN Intermediate Unit enhances educational opportunities for perspective students and their parents. The District collaborates with teachers who provide services for pre-school children with speech and other disabilities to support a seamless transition to the school setting. In addition, the District supports and utilizes programs provided by the Intermediate Unit such as transition programs for students with disabilities.

### ***Community Engagement***

In addition to promoting the active involvement of parents/guardians, the District supports and encourages community engagement to strengthen kindergarten transition programs. The District fosters partnerships with community, business, and higher education institutions to strengthen broad-based support for the District's mission, goals, operations, and educational programs. The ASD Foundation is a non-profit organization that raises money to provide teachers with mini-grants to support innovative classroom projects to increase student achievement and provide students with innovative materials, resources, and programs. ASD administrators serve on the boards and/or attend monthly meetings of various community and educational agencies including Head Start Policy Council, HEALTHY Armstrong, Outdoor Discovery Center at Crooked Creek , Armstrong Center for Community Learning, Children's Roundtable, YMCA, and Rotary. The District is also a leading partner in the annual Armstrong County Community Awareness effort to raise awareness about the importance of preventing alcohol and drug addiction and abuse.

### ***Pre-school Agency Coordination and Partnerships***

The Armstrong School District coordinates with agencies that serve preschool age children using the following action steps.

1. Identify and serve children with disabilities with services to ensure both physical and programmatic access.
2. On-going collaboration and communication with all agencies that administer early childhood programming. These opportunities provide for a smooth transition from the home setting and any early childhood care or educational setting the students attend, to the school setting.

The Armstrong School District does not offer a Pre-K program. There are, however, many opportunities that are offered to enhance communication between local preschool agencies, the school district staff, and the parents of preschool children. Preparing students for kindergarten is a multi-step and collaborative process. The following activities take place prior to formal kindergarten registration:

- 1) District personnel participation on Head Start Policy Council

- 2) District sponsored training workshops for preschool providers on ways to promote literacy skills and opportunities for collaboration between District staff and preschool teachers. District Title I parent who has children in Head Start Program assisted with the facilitation of the preschool providers training. This Title I parent attended the SPAC conference(s) and serves on the state level SPAC Committee. She shared ideas learned at the conference with area preschool teachers.
- 3) On-going collaboration between Head Start and school district personnel which includes training opportunities for parents provided by District staff and visits to Head Start parent meetings by District personnel.
- 4) District-wide Title I Family Fun Night held each spring and Head Start parents and their child(ren) are invited to this literacy event. During this evening opportunity, parents rotate to various literacy stations and participate in activities designed to promote oral language, pre-reading, and literacy skills. Parents receive games and literacy resources they can use at home with their child. This is a great opportunity for early childhood and Title I teachers to meet Head Start parents and their child(ren) to begin to build positive relationships in a fun and interactive learning environment. Local agencies such as libraries, YMCA, and LifeSteps are present at this family engagement event. Librarians communicate with families and help them access services at the public libraries.
- 5) Healthy Armstrong Partnership promotes interaction and shared goals among hospital, school district personnel, and Head Start personnel to generate ideas and programs to support health and wellness of all children. The school district recently received the Carol M White PEP grant to enhance health and wellness among school children and parents in K-12 settings. Ideas and resources used in the school setting (e.g. Spark curriculum) was then incorporated into a grant to support wellness in Head Start.

### ***Kindergarten Registration and Screening***

The District hosts Kindergarten registration/screening in the spring of each year. The community is notified of registration dates through postings on the district's website, local newspapers, and principals' newsletters. Registration forms are accessed via the district's website or can be picked up at the schools office. During the registration process, parents provide information regarding child's immunization records and other health history, demographics, transportation information, and emergency contacts. Parents meet with school personnel such as the principal, office staff, or nurse to share relevant information and have questions answered. Parents receive a booklet entitled, ***Getting Ready for Kindergarten***. This parent resource ensures a smooth transition to kindergarten.

While the parent is participating in the registration process, the child participates in a kindergarten screening activity with a kindergarten teacher from the school. During the screening process, kindergarten teachers and speech pathologists administer various assessments to gather information about incoming kindergarten students' cognitive and language proficiency levels. Screening results are sent to parents. Information gathered during the screening is used to enable staff to align instructional services to match the learning needs of students. For students entering the public schools with an IEP, various transition meetings between school, intermediate unit, and agency personnel are conducted.

The District’s Title I Parent and Family Engagement Advisory Council recommended that the District provide information to parents on the academic expectations for kindergarten and expand the information to parents of preschool-age children through pre-school meetings.

***Kindergarten Orientation***

In August, parents and incoming kindergarten children are invited to attend an orientation program to learn about the kindergarten curriculum and related services. Each elementary school conducts the orientation. During the orientation, parents learn about the kindergarten curriculum, daily schedule, breakfast, and lunch programs, cafeteria and school tours, Title I services, and transportation. Parents receive a resource booklet entitled ***Curriculum Highlights*** that outlines the reading, writing, and math programs along with social sciences, the fine arts, and health and physical education curriculum. Principals and teachers conduct the orientation and provide a formal presentation and answer parent questions. Bus safety and a tour of the bus is also part of this process.

Kindergarten Orientation Dates	
Dayton Elementary	August 23, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Elderton Elementary	August 21, 2019
Lenape Elementary	August 20, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Shannock Valley Elementary	August 22, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
West Hills Primary	August 20, 2019

***Back to School Night***

In September, each elementary school hosts a Back to School Night for kindergarten students. During this evening event, teachers provide a formal presentation to parents and students on the kindergarten program. Teachers offer specific activities that parents can do to support their child at home and share the kindergarten curriculum. Parents have ample opportunities to ask questions regarding the kindergarten curriculum or daily schedule.

Back-To-School Night Dates	
Dayton Elementary	September 3, 2019 from 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
Elderton Elementary	September 10, 2019
Lenape Elementary	September 17, 2019 and September 19, 2019
Shannock Valley Elementary	September 5, 2019 from 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
West Hills Primary	September 4, 5, 2019
West Hills Intermediate	September 12, 2019
Armstrong High School	September 11, 2019
West Shamokin High School	September 12, 2019

## ***Parent Conferences***

In October and February, formal parent conferences are held in each elementary school. Kindergarten and Title I teachers hold conferences and share relevant information with parents about their child's academic progress. In addition, information regarding their child's social development in the kindergarten setting is discussed.

## **Armstrong School District Initiatives that Support Successful Transition from one grade level to the next and elementary to secondary.**

### **Transitions for Elementary Students**

During the summer and at the beginning for the school year, teachers meet by cross grade level teams to discuss state and local assessment data as it relates to student achievement. These data teams discuss student achievement, intervention services, and the establishment, continuation, and/or maintenance of intervention supports for students to ensure that a continuation of effective services is included in the instructional plans of the school for each new school year. The school master schedule includes a period called flex which is a time for students to receive remediation or enrichment in core subject areas.

Teachers have Pass Along Folders that include key pieces of students assessments to ensure that relevant information and assessment data is utilized by the receiving teachers. During beginning of the year site based in-service days, elementary teacher participate in ***Caring and Sharing Days***. During these collaboration days, classroom and special education teachers, speech pathologists, guidance counselors, nurses, Title I reading specialists, school psychologists and principals discuss student achievement and other relevant data and services to ensure a continuation of services and support in the next grade level. On-going professional dialogue continues during the school year to monitor student progress using Act 80 and site-based days. At the elementary level, RtII, Educational Support Services (ESS), GIEP, and IEP meetings are held throughout the school year to discuss educational programming for students.

The Title I Parent and Family Engagement Advisory Council suggested to allow parents to take their child on a tour of the school prior to the first day so they are comfortable navigating through the school. These opportunities will be provided for any parent who wishes to provide this transition activity for their child. The Title I Council also suggested that teachers post needed school supplies and contact information on the school's webpage prior to the start of school.

### **Transitions for Students from Sixth Grade to Seventh Grade and Eighth to Ninth Grades**

In the spring of each year, sixth grade students tour the high schools and interact with guidance counselors, teachers, and administration. When students transition from sixth grade to seventh, teachers send student folders that contain writing samples and other relevant assessments to the receiving teachers. In addition, during the month of August, elementary and secondary teams meet to discuss PSSA data and instructional programming to ensure a seamless transition. Secondary guidance teams meet with elementary personnel to discuss the alignment of programs and services for students. Sixth grade students have the opportunity to be partnered with a Student

Ambassador from 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The Student Ambassadors help the 6<sup>th</sup> grade students seamlessly transition during their 7<sup>th</sup> grade year.

### **Transitions for Parents**

Back to School Nights are hosted at the elementary and secondary levels. During these opportunities, parents learn about the curriculum, instruction, and assessments of various subject areas and programs. In the elementary schools, Annual Parent Meetings are also hosted. Parents are also invited to school and district level Parent Information sessions on various relevant topics such as Positive Behavior Support Programs, PA Standards, and Homework Help. Junior high and high school orientations are also held for parents to provide information about curriculum programs, and opportunities for parent involvement. School and district websites contain relevant information and notifications to inform parents about relevant information. The District Alert service is an opportunity to notify all parents in the school district regarding upcoming events such as kindergarten registration and parent information sessions and workshops.

### **Transitions from High School to College and Career**

The District's high school guidance counselors meet with students on a regular basis during the high school years to provide information and counseling services to students to enable them to make decisions regarding college and career readiness. Many information sessions and opportunities are provided for parents and students on the following topics:

- 1) Completing the FAFSA
- 2) College Fairs
- 3) Job Fairs
- 4) Visits and information sessions regarding participation in the Lenape Technical School

In addition, the District has a Transition Coordinator who is responsible for the seamless transition of students with IEP's and their parents.