Continuity of Instruction Plan Instructions

In the sections below, please check all strategies that your district or school may utilize to provide continuity of learning to your students

LEA Information

Institution Name: WYNANTSKILL UFSD

BEDS Code: 490804020000

Institution Id: 800000039573

County: RENSSELAER

CEO Name: THOMAS REARDON

CEO Title: SUPERINTENDENT

Address

25 EAST AVE
TROY NY, 12180

Learning Materials and Content

1

What learning materials and content will your district utilize in your continuity of learning plan? Please select all that apply.

*

- Paper textbooks, and other content (books, magazines, etc.)
- Digital copies of textbooks
- Digital content and activities provided by the district, either free or subscription-based
- Online learning courses or course content modules
- Other

Compare

Communication Tools

2

What communication tools will your district utilize in your continuity of learning plan? Please select all that apply.

*

- Telephone and/or video calling
- Email
- Video Conferencing
- Social Media
- Website

- Learning Management System (LMS)
- Other

Compare

3

Provide additional information about how parents and families will be notified of the district's plan for providing continuity of learning opportunities for students.

*

Each teacher prek-8 submitted to the Superintendent approval of their instructional

materials. Materials were evaluated for rigor, differentiation, relevance to respective

content/grade-level standards, duration of activities, ability for said activities to be extended

beyond the eleven day closure, and the interface of which students could access (online, paper,

or both). Students were also surveyed and extended the option of taking home a District laptop

computer, complete with instructions for how to connect to their home network. Information

regarding free internet via Spectrum was also sent home with students. Faculty also outlined their

plan for ensuring these materials were supported remotely, which include emailing of students,

Facebook/Twitter live, and GoogleClassroom/Hangout platforms.

Compare

a

Please describe how you are communicating with parent(s)/guardian(s) of students during the COVID-19 crisis to ensure they know the expectations of their children.

*

Each teacher has established a relationship with their families using an online platform of their

choice. While it most cases this is GoogleClassroom (all classrooms have an account in which

each student can access through their email; as well as families), faculty are taking advantage of

other communication applications (SeeSaw, Remind101, Facebook, Twitter, emails, and phone

calls). Administration has also compiled an Instructional Resource Page (if families need a

reference point), but it should be noted that each teacher has made communication with each

family to ensure they are connected to their learning platform, and monitor their engagement each

day; following up with students/families who are not present for activities, or who do not submit

assigned work. These expectations were also sent to families via paper copy, website, social

media, and text message alert. It should be noted that, while the Wynantskill Union Free School

District has three ENL students, each family has been contacted to ensure they are receiving communications in their preferred language. It should also be noted that, while a second language is spoken at home sporadically, English is spoken/written at home, and all correspondence in English has sufficed (they have declined translation of any communications due to a lack of need).   Please see below:

https://www.wynantskillufsd.org/contact-us/

(instructional resource page directing families to the teachers' specific mode of instruction)

https://www.wynantskillufsd.org/2020/04/09/letter-for-families-from-dr-yodis/

(letter from administration explaining instructional expectations)

Compare

Teacher/Student Interface

4

How is your district planning for teachers and students to interact during the school closure as a result of COVID-19? Please select all that apply.

*

- Teacher office hours, virtually (online) via video conferencing and/or chat, and/or phone
- Scheduled teacher/student(s) check-ins, virtual (online) and/or via phone
- Asynchronous communication, feedback, and support via e-mail or LMS
- Other

Compare

b

How is your district tracking student interactions/engagement?

*

Each day, faculty (including special areas) take attendance after their GoogleMeets (which are once a day), and also monitor submission of assignments. If a student/family is not engaging, the teacher makes first contact via email or phone call to inquire why the student is not participating. If that is not effective, the school counselor is then notified and makes the next level of communication. We then determine if the student is in need of technology, or further assistance. We are also utilizing our teacher aides to check-in with those students who require

frequent coaching/redirecting, or benefit from an adult mentor during this unprecedented

time. Each teacher aide has a small caseload whom they are responsible for checking in with

daily; in addition to the aforementioned interventions from the teacher and school

counselor. Administration also gets involved if needed to engage a student. Right now,

Wynantskill is averaging a 90-95% daily engagement, based on these interventions.

Compare

Instruction

5

What methods of instruction does your district plan to implement in your continuity of learning plan? Please select all that apply.

*

- Hard copy (paper) instructional materials provided to students
- Instructional materials provided vis technology, such as posted on a teacher website or available through an LMS
- Individual or small group synchronous instruction facilitated using technologies such as telephone or video conferencing
- Large-group or whole class synchronous instruction facilitated using technologies such as telephone or video conferencing
- Recorded instruction disseminated through technology, including via podcast, dedicated website, or Learning Management System, scheduled or on demand television, DVD/CD
- Online learning course, accessed through an LMS, self-directed and self-paced
- Online learning course, accessed through an LMS, taught by a teacher
- Other

Compare

b

For the methods that require internet and/or device access, how is the district ensuring that those with limited or no accessibility to the internet and/or a device remain engaged?

*

As of today, the District has dispersed over 150 Chromebooks, including machines that will be

distributed today to families that have indicated they have a need. We have been advertising this

option since our initial closure and, through faculty/staff contact with students who are not

engaging, if it is determined a device is needed, we immediately make arrangements for a

machine to be picked up or delivered to that family. The District has enough machines for all

students and, as the need grows (i.e.- families who now have multiple children requiring machines in addition to families who are now working from home and thus require connectivity), we are ready to meet this demand.

The District has also invested in making WiFi available free of charge in the parking lot, so that families who lack connectivity are able to access internet connectivity if/when connectivity is not available through the home. The District also continues to promote Spectrum's offer for free internet via our social media pages, so that, should famiies find themselves in a hardship, they have the contact information to arrange for Spectrum to set up internet/WiFi in a home.

Compare

Technology Access

6

Student Devices

*

We provide all students with a computing deviceAll students use personal devicesWe provide computing devices to some studentsOur continuity of learning plan does not include the use of technology

Compare

7

Teacher Devices

*

We provide all teachers with a computing deviceAll teachers use personal devicesWe provide computing devices to some teachersOur continuity of learning plan does not include the use of technology

Compare

8

Student Home Access

*

All students have high-speed internet access at homeNot all students have high-speed internet access at home

Compare

9

Teacher Home Access

*

All teachers have high-speed internet access at homeNot all teachers have high-speed internet access at home

Compare

In addition to the information above, use the text box below to describe how your district's plan addresses continuity of learning that meets the unique needs of all students. (Please specify students with an IEP, ELLs, Homeless, and Alternative Placed students)

*

In addition to sending home materials for both core and non-core classes, special education teachers have also made contact with their families to ensure they are available to support student work (and also assisted in modifying work prior to its distribution). Remedial staff are also following a smiliar model. Our school psychologist and school counselor have also made themselves available through email/GoogleClassroom, and will be checking in with students who have the potential for mental health assistance during this absence.

While Wynantskill has three ENL students (who speak English quite fluently as do their families), our ENL teacher makes weekly contact with these students, and continues to provide service requirements remotely.

While Wynantskill does not currently have any students identified as homeless or who are in temporary housing, our school counselor and psychologist, through their outreach/availability to students, have been instructed to monitor families who potentially might be faced with a situation that renders a child homeless/displaced. There is a strong correlation between the students who are currently on District counseling caseloads and those who might wind up in such a situation. Our Food Service Director (who oversees requests for meals) keeps our mental health staff apprised of those students who are added to our original meal distribution list, at which point contact is made with the family to see if they are in need of subsequent supportive resources (such as housing, medical care, financial assistance direction, etc.).

Compare

What tools/strategies are you using to address the social-emotional needs of students, families, and staff during this crisis?

*

The Wynantskill Union Free School District has a full-time school counselor and psychologist. These individuals are currently working to not just ensure our students remain engaged in their schoolwork, but are also working to connect with students who are expressing the

need for emotional support (loneliness, feeling out of place, having difficulty establishing routine during the pandemic, etc.). Our school psychologist is providing mandated counseling to those students who receive counseling as per their IEP, and both the school counselor and psychologist are meeting with students in small/individual groups via GoogleMeet to address their concerns. The website below was made by our mental health professionals to provide all families resources for dealing emotionally with this pandemic:

https://www.smore.com/gk8ej

This will be distributed via email, website, social media, and placed in each teacher's GoogleClassroom "newsfeed."

Each week, the Superintendent and/or Principal reaches out to each teacher individually (either through phone or video conference) to ensure that staff (including support staff) are not simply "set" for instructional delivery, but that they are "okay." This has been tremendously taxing on the mental/emotional health of all, hence these check-ins. The District is also promoting home wellness activities (I.e.- virtual boot camp), and hosts weekly Friday "social hours" at 4:00 p.m. purely for the sake of decompressing, venting, and providing a safe outlet to remotely social as a unified support system.

Compare

12

Does your district have any additional materials that detail continuity of learning efforts currently being deployed by your district?

*

- Yes, and I will upload the materials.
- Yes, and I will provide the link(s) to the materials.
- Not at this time.