

## Continuity of Education Plan

*RIU6 Mission: To provide distinctive educational services that are responsive to the needs of our member districts and support the growth and success of the students we serve.*



# Riverview Intermediate Unit #6

## Continuity of Education Plan

### Intermediate Unit Information

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# Riverview Intermediate Unit #6

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### Goal of the Plan

In response to Governor Wolf's decision to close all Pennsylvania schools for the remainder of the academic year, the goal at Riverview Intermediate Unit #6 is to provide continued educational opportunities that are in alignment with the continuity of education plans implemented by each of the 17 school districts in our catchment area. During the physical closure of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the RIU#6 has developed a Continuity of Education (CoE) plan to frame our work across early intervention, school age programs and supports, and support for the school districts and career and technical centers within our catchment area.

*The main goals of our plan are:*

- 1. Provide planned instruction in academic areas listed in each school district's CoE plan using the same platform for learning whenever possible or an equivalent substitute.*
- 2. Maintain and progress in skill area related to IEP goals and services – including but not limited to behavioral support, social work support, autism coaching, motor development through occupational and physical therapy, communication through speech therapy, vision supports and hearing supports.*
- 3. Provide meaningful enrichment and review resources and opportunities for students to align with home district CoE plans.*

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## Continuity of Education Plan

### Overview of the Plan *(Slide 1 of 4)*

Riverview Intermediate Unit #6 will provide a good faith effort to ensure students have access to FAPE given the current state, national, and world epidemic conditions. It is our first priority to ensure that students' and their caregivers' health are prioritized. Outreach will be conducted with parents/guardians by the case manager (teacher) and related service staff (when appropriate) related to student and family needs and access as well as prioritizing educational needs in the adjusted learning environment.

The Riverview Intermediate Unit #6 provides programs and services to public school districts, nonpublic schools, and early intervention in 17 school districts throughout Clarion, Venango, Jefferson and Forest counties. This continuity of education plan has been developed to meet the diverse needs of our students across general education, special education, and early childhood settings in both public and non-public school settings. The plan is aligned with our mission to provide high-quality resources, innovative services and programs, and responsible leadership to enrich the educational and social services needs of our children.



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### Overview of the Plan *(Slide 2 of 4)*

Educational offerings that occur in the event of a prolonged school closure are defined as the following:

- **Enrichment and Review** – Offering informal activities that reinforce or extend students' prior learning. New standards and skills are not addressed.
- **Planned Instruction** – Formal teaching & learning similar to that which occurs in a classroom setting, including assessment of new learning of content and standards; mandatory

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### Overview of the Plan *(Slide 3 of 4)*

The following educational services and programs are addressed in this plan:

- **General Education for Curriculum and Instruction** include resources and supports provided to teachers and staff that align with enrichment and review or planned instruction.
- **School-Age Special Education Programs** include classroom-based programs and itinerant educational and related services. Classroom-based programs include academic and behavioral supports to students within the 24 school age consortium classrooms. Itinerant services encompass speech and language therapy, vision and hearing services, psychological services, orientation and mobility, behavioral support, and English language supports.
- **Early Childhood Programs** include early intervention for eligible students age 3–entrance into school age programming.
- **Non-Public School Services** include the provision of (K–12) to students in non-public schools with Act 89 services.

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### Overview of the Plan *(Slide 4 of 4)*

All students being educated within school age programs operated by Riverview Intermediate Unit #6 will receive continuity of education support, either through the provision of enrichment/review activities or planned instruction. The decision as to whether a student is provided with enrichment /review activities or planned instruction is dependent upon the continuity of education plan in place at each individual student's home school district. Riverview Intermediate Unit #6 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 instruction will be provided face to face virtually whenever possible or through other modes of instruction. Paper resources and telephone support will be provided whenever internet connectivity or devices are not adequate or available.

Teachers and related services professionals working with students in Riverview Intermediate Unit #6 Early Intervention will continue, in good faith, to meet the individual needs of the families they work with to the best of their ability. They will be connecting with families to determine the best method of communication and will be providing resources and materials for enrichment and review to their students and families. They will continue to meet the obligations of these programs to the greatest extent possible during these unprecedented times.

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### Expectations for Teaching and Learning *(Slide 1 of 3)*

Expectations for teaching and learning will be tailored for each educational program and aligned to the continuity of education plans for each home school district in our catchment area.

The expectations for teacher and learning across all RIU#6 programs are outlined on the next two slides.

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### Expectations for Teaching and Learning *(Slide 2 of 3)*

#### 1. Enrichment and Review

- Activities will be provided to students and families on a weekly/bi-weekly basis. Activities and resources will be available in digital and print formats and will be distributed to all students based on their resources and capabilities at their homes. Related service providers will be providing support to students, consultations with families, and additional practice activities. This includes but is not limited to speech, occupational therapy, physical therapy, vision supports, hearing supports, and mental health supports. Social emotional needs will continue to be met for students through communications with parents and students and sharing of resources to be practiced at home.
- All Early Intervention teachers will provide enrichment and review activities to students and families to provide continuity of education. All developmental areas will be considered.
- School-age programs will provide enrichment and review activities as appropriate for students based on guidance and decisions made by the student's home school district or non-public school.



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### Expectations for Teaching and Learning *(Slide 3 of 3)*

#### 2. Planned Instruction

- Planned Instruction will be provided, as appropriate, to students in school age programs based on the following considerations:
- Special Education programs will provide planned instruction, as appropriate, for students based on guidance and decisions made by the student's home school district.
- Non-public schools' programs will provide planned instruction in accordance with the non-public schools' continuity of education plan.
- Special Education and Related Services will be provided in good faith and as determined, as reasonable and appropriate, for students during the period of mandated closure.

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## Continuity of Education Plan

### Communication Tools & Strategies *(Slide 1 of 2)*

Riverview Intermediate Unit #6 staff are able to communicate with students and parents/guardians through a variety of tools and strategies. Tools vary by learner and parent/guardian needs and availability. Tools to facilitate communication include but are not limited to use of email, voice-mail, virtual platforms (i.e. Zoom, Google Meet, Google Hangouts), on-line platforms (i.e. Google Classroom, Google Folders) telephone contacts, and written correspondence.

# Riverview Intermediate Unit #6

## Continuity of Education Plan

### Communication Tools & Strategies *(Slide 2 of 2)*

A website has been created in collaboration through our Education Programs Department and Special Education Department for supporting our districts and their staff, students, and families. It can be reached by clicking on this link "[RIU6 Continuity of Education Site](#)" or going to our webpage [www.riu6.org](http://www.riu6.org). This site has a list of resources, free self-paced trainings, and short 30-minute Pop-Up PD training sessions to assist teachers as they may move to a digital learning environment.

Additionally, there are resources and activities for social skills/behavioral support, hearing support, vision support, speech support, occupational therapy/physical therapy support, AAC resources and assistive technology support. Our technical assistance educators are also holding virtual office hours to assist in this transition.

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### Access (Devices, Platforms, Handouts) *(Slide 1 of 3)*

Working with our member districts at Riverview Intermediate Unit #6, we have found that there is a large percentage of students without adequate access to the internet and/or devices to access online enrichment and review content or platforms for planned instruction. This will present challenges to communication and learning for many students. Teachers across programs are assessing potential barriers to technology by communicating with parents and determining availability of access to virtual platforms for enrichment and review activities and/or planned instruction.

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## Continuity of Education Plan

### Access (Devices, Platforms, Handouts) *(Slide 2 of 3)*

Enrichment and review activities will be provided to students and families through a combination of platforms and strategies. Digital resources and weblinks will be provided to students who are able to access the internet and appropriate devices. Printed materials, calendars, and activity guides will be provided when barriers to virtual learning modalities cannot be remedied.

Planned instruction will be provided to students and families through one-to-one, small, or large groups sessions utilizing tools such as Zoom or Google Sites. In the event students cannot access this technology, phone consultation and/or printed materials and toolkits will be provided to support ongoing learning.



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## Continuity of Education Plan

### Access (Devices, Platforms, Handouts) *(Slide 3 of 3)*

Riverview Intermediate Unit 6 is committed to doing our best to provide equity of access through using all devices we have possible for staff and students and making accommodations for students who do not have internet and device access through handouts, packets, and other resource materials.

# Riverview Intermediate Unit #6

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### General Staff Expectations

Expectations for Riverview Intermediate Unit # 6 staff will continue to be the same as when school is in session. We will strive to meet the needs of the students we serve under the current circumstances.

On a weekly basis, it is expected that educators and educational support staff engage in work as follows to comply with program requirements and support families and students:

- Each individual classroom team will meet to collaborate, problem-solve, and develop learning activities for students.
- Communicate once a week with each parent / family to discuss individual student needs.
- Sharing of learning activities and community resources with families.
- Actively participating in job alike PLC groups to brainstorm instructional strategies, share resources, and problem solve challenges.
- Participate in IEP team meetings and maintain timelines for special education compliance.
- Develop and disseminate learning packets, materials, and resources.
- Engage in professional development activities related to providing virtual instruction and different platforms that deliver instruction.
- Document services and consultative supports provided to families.
- Complete other tasks / assignments as directed by supervisor or director.

Technology assistance is also provided by our Technology Department and technicians who can troubleshoot problems remotely and change out hardware if needed.

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### Student Expectations

All students will be provided support and assistance by classroom teachers, special education teachers, related services members, and para-educators. Every effort will be made to engage student participation in either enrichment and review or planned instruction. Students are expected to follow the expectations of their district of residence knowing that teachers will make themselves accessible on regular work days. Students and their families are asked to reach out for assistance through the case manager (teacher) and supervisors for any questions and for individual assistance.

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## Continuity of Education Plan

### Attendance / Accountability

Professional staff will establish and maintain communication with families and students via telephone, virtual meetings, and email. They will record each communication within the IEP Call Log on IEP Writer or through the use of a spreadsheet for each individual student. Preschool staff will document their communication with families through an individual call log for each student.

Attendance will be taken for students who are participating in planned instruction through their home school district. Attendance will not be recorded for students attending districts using enrichment and review. The Riverview Intermediate Unit #6 Early Intervention program is implementing enrichment and review. No attendance will be taken for these students.

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### Good Faith Efforts for Access & Equity for All Students

Riverview Intermediate Unit #6 is committed to doing our best to provide equity of access during this period of school closure. We are utilizing all available devices for staff and students and are making accommodations for students who do not have internet and/or device access through handouts, packets, and other resource materials. Our ultimate goal is to provide the best instruction and resources in whatever format necessary to students during this period of school closure.



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### Special Education Supports

The Riverview Intermediate Unit #6 Special Education Department is working collaboratively with our 17-member school districts to implement each continuity of education plan to the best of our ability. Details supporting our services are listed within other sections of the RIU#6 continuity of education plan. Additionally, we are providing the following supports:

- Conducting weekly consortium networking meetings to provide updates from the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Bureau of Special Education.
- Providing professional development and instructional support through our Training and Consulting (TaC) staff. Office hours are established and available for all staff members from all member districts.
- Establishing a lead special education supervisor for each school district to provide a streamlined approach to communication regarding individual students from a member district.

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### EL Supports

There are no EL students in RIU6 programming; however, we are supporting our 17-member districts and their staff and programs by running consortium networking meetings and working to connect teachers and administrators to resources and answers to questions about EL instruction and service delivery.

### Gifted Supports

There are no Gifted Education students in RIU6 programming; however, we are supporting our 17-member districts and their staff and programs by running consortium networking meetings and working to connect teachers and administrators to resources and answers to questions about GIEPs and service delivery.

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### Building/Grade/Program Contacts

Administrator	Title	Program	Email
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### Resources

Please go to [www.riu6.org](http://www.riu6.org) & click on the link to the *“Continuity of Education”* website.