

June 2014

LOGAN COUNTY PROGRAMMATIC TRANSITIONAL PLAN

Logan County Schools believes students should have transition easily from one programmatic level to another to be successful in school. Every transition can exacerbate problems or be used as a natural opportunity to promote positive learning and attitudes and reduce alienation. Logan County Schools will build capacity to address transitions proactively and in the process to be guided by their goals for developing personalized educational plans (PEPs) and social functioning opportunities for each student.

A comprehensive focus on transitions required school-wide and classroom-based systems and programs designed to:

- (a) enhance successful transitions
- (b) prevent transition problems
- (c) use transition periods to reduce alienation and increase positive attitudes toward school and learning.

Over time, articulation programs can play a major role in reducing school avoidance and dropouts, as well as enhancing the number of students who make successful transitions to higher education and post-school living and work.

Students Entering Early Childhood or Kindergarten

The Logan County Universal Pre-K transition plan is comprised of several components that provide students and their families with support that enables them to access and utilize the offerings of the West Virginia Pre-K Program. As transition planning is conducted each year, the Logan County team follows and will continue to follow the *West Virginia Childhood Transition Checklist*.

As this process begins each year, Logan County Schools and PRIDE Community Services, Inc. Head Start provide and will continue to provide written information to parents, families, guardians and community members regarding pre-k and kindergarten registrations. This includes flyers sent home at all schools, advertisements in the local newspaper, and announcements on the radio. In addition, posters are displayed at local community buildings and schools notify families and community members of registration dates and required documents necessary to register the child in pre-k and kindergarten.

During and after enrollment, families are and will continue to be provided with what to expect in pre-k or kindergarten at enrollment sessions, school orientations, and open houses. Students and their families are also, and will continue to be, provided an opportunity for the incoming pre-k child and his/her family to visit the school setting into which the child is transitioning to pre-k during an orientation meeting and school tour prior to the beginning of the school year. Incoming kindergarten students and their families are also provided this opportunity during the spring prior to the child entering kindergarten.

At school site open houses for both families of pre-k and kindergarten students, teachers provide and will continue to provide information on the grade appropriate WVCSOs, instructional

strategies that will be used in the classroom, consistent routines that will be established, and assessments that the teacher will use to measure the child's growth and development. As the school year moves forward, parents will be provided site-based and county-wide workshops throughout the school year to enable them to support their child's learning at home and at school.

Logan County Schools' Pre-K teachers and PRIDE Community Services, Inc. Head Start teachers will participate in weekly Professional Learning Community meetings with kindergarten teachers beginning the first week of the second semester (January 2014) and will continue these meetings through the end of May 2014. During these meetings, teachers will share student evaluation data and will assist one another in developing plans to embed the Pre-K WVCSO's into the creation of learning centers that will provide students the opportunity to interact with the classroom environment in a way that will ensure the mastery of required skills and concepts. These meetings will improve the transition of pre-k students into kindergarten. In addition, teachers and/or providers in the WV Pre-K System will meet annually with district leaders to discuss how to facilitate successful transition and support the reciprocity of readiness practices so that all students can reach their maximum level of achievement.

Logan County has developed a process whereby there is a county system for transferring assessment data, including but not limited to portfolios, for each child who has participated in a eligible program to the kindergarten teacher to assist the kindergarten teacher in identifying areas of development and areas for growth to meet the individual needs of each child. Pre-K teachers transfer this data to the receiving kindergarten teachers at the end of each school year in paperwork and through the WVELS Pre-K electronic system. In addition, there are policies and procedures for the transition of children with IEPs into and out of the WV Pre-K that follow all state and federal requirements.

Pre-k programs are designed and will continue to be designed to minimize the number of settings in which a child receives education and care services. Parents/guardians are given options to enroll their child in a program that meets the needs of the family and supports consistency and continuity for the child. Placements are not limited to the local school district in which the child lives if openings are available in participating programs within that county that better meet the child and family's needs.

For Elementary Students Moving to Next Grade

Individual schools use several techniques to prepare returning students to meet expectations of the next grade. These include: classroom visits, and information sent to parents concerning expectations. Elementary schools host orientation nights to help parents and children locate classrooms, meet the teacher and begin to become familiar with classroom expectations and routines.

A series of camps in the areas of mathematics, literacy and writing emphasize project based learning opportunities to assist students who are struggling with content standards. The experiences help students synthesize critical content information before transitioning to the next instructional level.

Transitioning to Middle Schools

Middle Schools use various techniques to transition into grade 5 in Logan County among the activities are:

- (a) Counselors are sent to elementary schools to speak with students concerning courses, expectations, and clubs students can participate in.
- (b) Schools provide move up days for students to meet teachers and tour the facilities. Teachers begin forming relationships with students
- (c) Parent days or nights occur prior to the first day of school to disseminate pertinent information for student success (also called 5th grade orientation)
- (d) When the school year begins, school administrators have grade level meetings to ease student concerns, and provide information to students concerning resources and procedures
- (e) Once the school year begins, teachers will discuss students having problems with transitioning into middle school during grade level meetings if necessary, teachers will refer students to the Students Assistance Team for additional support. The SAT will document a plan to alleviate concerns
- (f) Information of transitional activities can be found on the schools website.

Transitioning to High Schools

High Schools in Logan County provide a variety of activities to transition into the ninth grade, among them are:

- (a) Counselors are sent to the middle schools to talk to incoming freshman about the program of studies, credits, courses, that are available to students, clubs, athletics and school logistics.
- (b) Middle school counselors develop five year plans with students to plan the course of study for the 9th and 10th grades. NOTE: (The Five Year Plan will be replaced by Personalized Educational Plans as mandated by Policy 2510. The PEPS is an on-going process developed by teachers and counselors to individually meet the needs of students.
- (c) Parent days or nights are offered to disseminate information and to address concerns of parents
- (d) Student orientation days or nights occur at all three high schools. Students have the opportunity to explore campuses and meet the faculty and administrators
- (e) High schools conduct freshman meetings to explain expectations and provide resources to students.
- (f) National Defense Cadet Corp (JROTC) staff visits middle schools to introduce students to their curriculum and provide information to students as well as support.
- (g) Advisory programs' curricular content addresses student success issues throughout the freshman year. (Credit recovery, participating in schools activities, club and athletics, who to go to if there is a problem, tutoring, etc.)
- (h) Summer programs for students who are struggling in English Language Arts as well as math are provided by the county for incoming ninth graders. These learning

opportunities provide additional time and learning experiences for students to be successful in Math 1 and English 9.

- (i) Once the school year begins, teachers will discuss students having problems with transitioning into high school during grade level or content PLC meetings. If necessary, teachers will refer students to the Student Assistance Team for additional support. The SAT will document a plan to alleviate concerns.
- (j) Information of transitional activities can be found on the school's website.

Transitioning to College or Workforce

Logan County Schools provides assistance to students and their parents as students' transition from school to adult life. This planning includes assessments to interests and strengths, setting transitional goals, selecting the appropriate courses of study, services and agency linkages needed to meet the needs of students.

Throughout the high school years, teachers and counselors will address career indecision; financial aid; college choice; future job markets; plans for achieving short, intermediate and long-term goals; analyze how students strengths and weaknesses enhance or hinder the achievement of their goals; and access current progress of goals.

Senior students complete a senior project on their chosen profession. Seniors participate in a job shadowing experience to explore further their future options. During this process students display writing, speaking, technology and research skills needed for future employment or collegiate course work. Students present their work to a panel of judges and then are scored based on a rubric.

Logan County provides the opportunity for students to participate in the ACT EXPLORE, ACT PLAN and ACT to aid in decision making concerning future and employment or collegiate programs.

Post-secondary or "College Days" are held at each High School. Officials speak to seniors and their parents concerning financial aid and NCAA requirement.

Financial aid workshops are schedule for students or parents that need assistance.

Counselors place scholarship opportunities on the school website and school announcements.

Recruiters from the U.S. Armed forces visit with interested students throughout the senior year.