

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.*

Harmony Area School District Initiatives that Support Successful Transition to Pre-K / Kindergarten

Community Coordination and Collaboration

The Harmony Area 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 Harmony Area 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 and Intermediate Unit #10 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.

Central Intermediate Unit #10

Our partnership with Central Intermediate Unit #10 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 district is also a leading partner in raising awareness about the importance of drug and alcohol abuse and addiction. The *Remembering Adam* program is a school sponsored organization that facilitates awareness to our families and students. Community oriented service projects are developed and followed through with by our school leaders and organizations of the school.

Pre-school Agency Coordination and Partnerships

The Harmony Area 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.

3. The Harmony Area School District does have a Pre-K program. There are 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:

- * CenClear Child Development Representatives will meet the local district representatives to identify procedures and protocols to discuss the educational and other needs of children transitioning from Head Start to the district. Details are outlined in the Individualized Transition Plan.

- * Designated CenClear staff, including teachers, will work with the district staff to effectively transition children and families to kindergarten. Specific strategies are outlined in the Individualized Transition Plan.

- * CenClear and the district will compile, transfer and utilize records as outlined in the transition plan. Records will be shared with the school district no later than May 31st.

- * The school district and CenClear will jointly coordinate an annual meeting with families and district staff to discuss the developmental and other needs of individual children. Other local early childhood education programs could be included in this meeting as appropriate.

- * Joint transition-related professional development will occur between the school district and CenClear and other local early childhood providers. This will occur as P.D. opportunities arise. Events could include face-to-face trainings, consultation, and meetings. The primary points of contact or their designees will actively participate in the planning for this training. Details are outlined in the Individualized Transition Plan.

4. On-going collaboration between Head Start and school district personnel.

5. District-wide Title I Family Night held each Fall and preschool through grade 12 children and their parents are invited to this event. During this evening opportunity, parents rotate to various stations and participate in activities designed

to promote oral language, pre-reading, and literacy skills, and many other school engagement opportunities. Parents receive resources they can use at home with their child. This is a great opportunity for early childhood and Title I teachers to meet preschool parents and their child(ren) to begin to build positive relationships in a fun and interactive learning environment.

Pre-K / Kindergarten Registration and Screening

The district hosts a Pre-K/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, social media, posters at local stores, and newsletters. Registration forms are mailed out by our guidance office, as requested. 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, teachers, or nurse to share relevant information and have questions answered.

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. Also, hearing and vision screenings are completed at this time. Screening results are shared with the 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 provides information to parents on the academic expectations for kindergarten and preschool-age children.

Pre-K Orientation / Kindergarten Home Visits

In August, parents and incoming Pre-K children are invited to attend a "Meet the Teacher" program to learn about curriculum and related services. Bus safety and a tour of the bus is also part of this process. Each kindergarten teacher conducts home visits for the children in order to discuss curriculum and other programs and services.

Open House

In November, the district hosts an Open House Night for Pre-K through grade 12 students. During this evening event, teachers provide a formal presentations to parents and students on the various programs and activities of our school. Teachers offer specific activities that parents can do to support their child at home and share curriculum. Parents have ample opportunities to ask questions regarding the curriculum, grades, overall bell schedule items, or daily schedule items.

Parent Conferences

In November and January, formal parent conferences are held district-wide to share relevant information with parents about their child's academic progress. In addition, information regarding their child's social development in the school setting is also discussed.

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 intervention and enrichment (I&E), which is a time for students to receive remediation or enrichment in core subject areas.

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. GIEP, IEP, and 504 meetings are held throughout the school year to discuss educational programming for special needs students, as necessary.

Transitions for Students from Sixth Grade to Seventh Grade

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 7th or 8th grade. The Student Ambassadors help the 6th grade students seamlessly transition during their 7th grade year.

Transitions for Parents

Back to School Nights are hosted district-wide. During these opportunities, parents learn about the curriculum, instruction, and assessments of various subject areas and programs. Parents are also invited to school and district level Parent Information sessions on various relevant topics such as Positive Behavior Support (SWPBIS) 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 “OneCALL” 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 Admiral Peary Technical School