



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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***Berks County Education Leaders Continue to Collaborate and Prepare for
Continuity of Education Plans***

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READING, PA – Since the announcement of the state mandated school closure, the Berks County Intermediate Unit (BCIU) along with the 18 county school districts and the two Career and Technology Centers continue to collaborate and plan as we receive guidance from our state and federal leaders. As always, our primary goal is the health, safety, and welfare of the 70,000 plus students and families we serve in Berks County.

Through daily check-in meetings with superintendents and BCIU leaders, we are continuing to prioritize and plan for learning and student engagement. In addition, through strategic collaboration, education leaders are committed to supporting their students and families within their districts during these unprecedented times.

Educators across the county are engaged in planning for this new learning environment with the development of district specific continuity of education plans. As each of our school communities are unique, so will each individual district's continuity of education plan during this mandated school closure. Each school continuity of education plan will include various education opportunities centered on enrichment and review, which consists of informal activities to reinforce or extend students' prior learning, and/or planned instruction, defined as formal teaching and learning, which includes new concepts.

We recognize that this is a major shift in how we deliver educational services across the county as we comply with the Governor's mandated school closure. In addition, we are keenly aware of several key areas that need to be considered throughout this planning process. These key areas include but are not limited to: (1) access to technologies; (2) instructional needs for all students; (3) students receiving special education; (4) students who are English learners; and (5) students who are gifted. This is not a "one size fits all" plan which is why collaboration and communication across all 18 school districts, the two CTCs, and the BCIU is vital.

As we move forward, educators across the county remain committed to engaging and supporting students and families during the mandated school closure, especially recognizing this is a change from the traditional education structure. We appreciate and are grateful for the support from the community at large as we navigate this time of uncertainty together.

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