



## KUTZTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Department of Federal Programs

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*Maximize potential, embrace change, create the future~*

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### **Kutztown Area School District Transition Plan**

The Kutztown Area School District Transition Plan is designed to provide for proactive and positive approaches to the occasions in a student's life which involve a move from pre-school to kindergarten as well as from one building to another and from high school to post-secondary college or career, with additional supports provided for students with special needs.

Kindergarten registration occurs at the administration building each May which involves all of our kindergarten teachers, Title I Reading Specialists, Instructional Support Teachers, School Counselors, Nurses, and principals. At registration, parents are asked to complete a survey regarding their children's social skills, communication skills, self-help/motor skills, and academic readiness indicators. With parents' permission, the same form is distributed to preschool/pre-kindergarten programs for additional input. This information is used by the staff to determine how to best meet the needs of all incoming students. We offer a summer program for incoming kindergarteners to work on readiness activities, specifically to work on reading and math skills, at no cost to families. The Student Services Department coordinates with the Berks County Intermediate Unit Early Intervention Program, and we regularly communicate and collaborate with other area early childhood providers on our initiatives, curriculum, and instruction.

Our school counselors meet at least four times a year to coordinate services for students transitioning between buildings. Additionally, our principals meet monthly to discuss program issues as well as specific student concerns in the transition years. Students who are new to the district are provided with building tours and introductions to classroom teachers. On the last in-service day of each school year, teachers in grades 5/6 and 8/9 meet to discuss individual student issues and concerns.

In addition to fall Open Houses, we run "Camp Cougar" in the week prior to the first day of school for incoming sixth graders to tour the middle school and meet their teachers and for incoming ninth graders to tour the high school school and meet their teachers. Camp Cougar provides students in sixth and ninth grade with a positive first experience in their new buildings.

The district's Chapter 339 K-12 Counseling Program outlines the multiple social, emotional, and academic supports in place to assist students. Additionally, the district is developing a Career Pathways program which will include job-shadowing, internships, visits to the Berks Career and Technical Center, and opportunities for dual enrollment to provide for transitions from high school to either the work world or post-secondary education. We offer multiple opportunities for students to participate in community based activities/field trips related to post secondary education and training. We hold two evening presentations throughout the year, one geared toward post secondary education and training and one toward employment.

For students with special needs who approach the transition from middle to high school, the Transition Coordinator is invited to all IEP meetings to be part of the transition section of the IEP. A student/parent orientation/visitation to the high school is scheduled prior to school starting. We employ a collaborative approach to scheduling courses for students as they transition from middle school to high school. The Transition Coordinator shares updates from the Berks County Transition Coordinators meetings to staff to ensure compliance with Indicator 13 requirements.

From high school to post-secondary within special education, students receive instruction in topics related to disability awareness, self advocacy, employment readiness, and post secondary education and training and independent living. The Transition Coordinator is invited to all IEP meetings to be part of the transition section of the IEP.

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