Hastings Area School System

Continuity of Learning and COVID-19 Response Plan

As a result of COVID-19 and the closing of school buildings for the 2019-2020 School Year, school districts must submit a Continuity of Learning and COVID-19 Response Plan ("Plan") in order to continue to receive state aid for operations. Although schools are closed and not providing in-person instruction, teaching and learning must continue. Michigan educators have been called to provide our students with continued learning.

There are varied states of readiness to provide continuity in learning among districts. Even within districts of multiple school sites, there are varied states of readiness. It is expected that schools will provide instruction at a distance using a variety of methods that meet local needs, including printed materials, phone contact, email, virtual learning, or a combination to meet student needs. We should avoid assuming that continuity in learning can only occur through online means.

While many educators have been providing distance learning opportunities, the Governor's Executive Order (EO 2020-35) requires all schools to begin providing learning opportunities for all students no later than April 28, 2020. Districts who are able to begin their plans earlier are encouraged to do so.

Each District shall submit a single completed Assurance Document, Budget Outline, and Continuity of Learning Plan to its Intermediate School District. Each Public School Academy shall submit a completed Assurance Document, Budget Outline, and Continuity of Learning Plan to its Authorizer. A single Application should be filed for the district rather than multiple applications for individual schools within a district. The following items are required for the application which may be submitted beginning April 8, 2020:

1. AssurancesDocument
2. Continuity of Learning Plan
3. Budget Outline
Continuity of Learning and COVID-19 Response Plan
(“Plan”) Guiding Principles

As Districts and Public School Academies complete the Assurances and Continuity of Learning Plans, they should consider utilizing the following principles to guide their work:

**Keep Students at the Center**

Intentional outreach to continue building relationships and maintain connections. Help students feel safe and valued. At minimum, plan to do the following:

- Plan for Student Learning: Build on each student’s strengths, interests, and needs and use this knowledge to positively affect learning.
- Develop a Weekly Plan and Schedule: Offer routines and structures for consistency and for the balancing of think time, work time, and play time for health and well-being.
- Contact Families: Partner to support student learning through ongoing communication and collaboration. This will not look the same for every student and family—safety remains the priority. Provide translations as necessary.

**Design Learning for Equity and Access**

Plan and deliver content in multiple ways so all students can access learning.

- Teach Content: Set goals using knowledge of each student, content area standards, and of Michigan Merit Curriculum.
- Deliver Flexible Instruction: Consider how to deliver content depending on tools and resources accessible to each student. Alternative modes of instruction may include use of online learning, telephone communications, email, virtual instruction, videos, slideshows, project-based learning, use of instructional packets, or a combination to meet diverse student needs.
- Engage Families: Communicate with families about engagement strategies to support students as they access the learning. Families are critical partners. Provide translations as necessary.
Assess Student Learning

Manage and monitor student learning and plan what's next for learning including the potential need for summer and supplemental learning.

- Check Student Learning: Use a variety of strategies to monitor, assess, and provide feedback to students about their learning.
- Make Instructional Adjustments: Use formative assessment results to guide educators’ reflection on effectiveness of instruction and to determine next steps for student learning.
- Engage Families: Communicate with families about assessment results in order to inform next steps and the potential for supplemental summer learning. Provide translations as necessary.
Continuity of Learning and COVID-19 Response Plan
(“Plan”) Assurances

Date Submitted: April 8, 2020

Name of District: Hastings Area School System

Address of District: 232 West Grand Street, Hastings, MI 49508

District Code Number: 08030

Email Address of the District: dan.remenap@hassk12.org


Name of Authorizing Body (if applicable):

This Assurance document needs to be returned to your Intermediate School District or, for Public School Academies, your Authorizing Body with your Continuity of Learning Plan and Budget Outline beginning April 8, 2020 to indicate that the District will adopt a plan to ensure continuous learning for all students through the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

Districts should submit a single district plan that relates to all of their schools.

The applicant hereby provides assurance it will follow the requirements for a Plan for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year:

1. Applicant assures that all student learning will take place under the direction of a teacher of record for each student enrolled in the district.

2. Applicant assures that it will continue to pay school employees during the balance of the 2019-2020 school year under the same terms and conditions established prior to the school closure order period.

3. Applicant assures that the Plan was developed in collaboration with district administrators, school board members, teachers, and local bargaining units.

4. Applicant assures that food distribution has been arranged for or provided for eligible students.

5. Applicant assures coordination between applicant and Intermediate School District in which the District/PSA is located to mobilize disaster
relief child care centers.

6. Applicant assures that to the extent practicable the District/PSA will in good faith provide students with IEPs/Section 504 Plans the opportunity to participate in learning consistent with existing plans.

7. Applicant assures that Continuity of Learning and COVID-19 Response Plan, Assurance Document, and Budget Outline will be posted immediately following approval to the District’s/PSA’s website.
Continuity of Learning and COVID-19 Response Plan
(‘Plan’)

The goal of a Continuity of Learning Plan and COVID-19 Response Plan is to ensure that each District or Public School Academy is providing, to the best of its ability, each student with alternative modes of instruction to help them stay on pace in their learning. This application recognizes that there is no “one-size-fits-all” solution; multiple means of engaging students and supporting families may be necessary that may vary by grade level, school building, or student population served.

For the purposes of the Plan, “district” refers to school districts and public school academies.

Date Submitted: April 8, 2020

Name of District: Hastings Area School System

Address of District: 232 West Grand Street, Hastings, MI 49508

District Code Number: 08030

Email Address of the District Superintendent: dan.remenap@hask12.org


Name of Authorizing Body (if applicable):

In accordance with Executive Order 2020-35 a Plan must include all of the following parts:

Please describe the methods the district will use to provide alternative modes of instruction other than in-person instruction and a summary of materials each pupil and the pupil’s parents or guardians will need to access meaningfully the alternative modes of instruction included in the Plan. If the Plan relies on electronic instruction, the Plan must ensure to the extent feasible that pupils have access to a connected device capable of accessing the electronic instruction and must not penalize a pupil for the pupil’s inability to fully participate.
'Alternative modes of instruction' means modes of pupil instruction, other than in-person instruction, that may include, without limitation, partnerships with other districts or intermediate districts or community colleges or institutions of higher education, use of vendors, use of online learning, telephone communications, email, virtual instruction, videos, slideshows, project-based learning, use of instructional packets, or a hybrid of multiple modes of learning that still promote recommended practices for social distancing to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

District/PSA Response:

Hastings Area School System will be using a hybrid approach of instruction within the methodology of this plan, and to help mitigate the spread of COVID. This will include all K-12 and Hastings Virtual Academy students (HVA students will continue to use district approved learning platforms).

Our plan will include communication from the Central Office level weekly, however instruction will be directly communicated from the building and classroom teacher with more specificity on a weekly/bi-weekly basis. Guidance for parents/students will be communicated through email, social media, telephone calls, and other forms of district approved communication platforms.

HASS will be collaborating with the Barry County United Way to assist with any materials that students need to assist with their learning (backpacks, pencils, erasers, pens, markers, etc).

Depending on the grade level, content area, and age appropriateness, students will be provided instructional packets, project-based learning, virtual learning, videos (e.g., YouTube), Google Classrooms, and other forms of hybrid learning.

Furthermore, we plan on lending out Chrome Books to pupils so they can extend their individual learning remotely. We will also assist with those who do not have Internet access, if possible. HASS will not be penalizing any student that can not fully participate in the overall plan.
Pre-K through Elementary Considerations

Middle School Considerations

High School Considerations

Please describe the methods the district will use to keep pupils at the center of educational activities, including outreach to continue building relationships and maintain connections, and to help pupils feel safe and valued.

District/ PSA Response:

Hastings Area School System (HAS) has always sustained a very strong Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) for our students. This will continue through the duration of this plan, and to mitigate the spread of COVID.

Staff will continue to provide regular, scheduled communication to both parents, students, and the community regarding the instruction, social-emotional learning, as well as food service during this time.

Methods include providing a hybrid approach to academics through instructional packets, virtual learning, videos (YouTube), slideshows, telephone calls, emails, etc. Our Counseling / Social Work department has already extended outreach to parents/students by providing student selection criteria for next year’s scheduling. Moreover, they have a plan for social-emotional learning and support within this time frame to provide assistance with anxiety, depression, and other symptoms students may be exhibiting during this time. Safety and the feeling of value for our families are at the forefront of every message sent from HASS, and we have received very positive feedback from the community on the communication and connections that HASS staff have provided.

The HASS food service and its volunteers have been working tirelessly during this time, providing thousands of meals at eleven different locations across HASS and Barry County. This connection and relationship building has provided nutrition and the ability to maintain health through a very troubling time period.
Please describe the district's plans to deliver content in multiple ways so that all pupils can access learning.

District/ PSA Response:

Hastings Area School System will take a hybrid approach to delivering content so that all pupils can access learning. Depending on the content, grade level, and past delivery system of the particular class, this may look somewhat different across the K-12 learning continuum.

Hastings Area School System, and Barry County for that matter, is a very rural area exhibiting some broadband (Wifi) barriers for both our staff and our pupils. However, we plan on providing a hybrid approach to pupils so that new content can be provided for their individual learning. We will be providing instructional packets weekly/bi-weekly to our pupils, along with communication for new content. These resources and materials will be paired with virtual learning, Google Classroom delivery, social media, virtual meetings, and other technology that will assist the learner at home. We also plan on lending out ChromeBooks for those who do have Wifi at home to assist with their individual learning. For those who do not have access to the Internet, we will provide assistance so they have the ability to work remotely.

Some non-traditional content (physical education, music, art, media, etc.) will also have expectations on pupils to access their learning. This may look a little different through video, project-based learning, routines, etc, in which students can focus on essential standards, or specific techniques that will increase their growth within a given area of non-traditional content.

Hastings Virtual Academy students will continue to have access to Edgenuity, and work with the Counseling department to assist with credit recovery and ultimate success within their chosen courses.

Please describe the district’s plans to manage and monitor learning by pupils.

District/ PSA Response:

Teachers will be checking for understanding through multiple forms of formative assessment, and through multiple timeframes, depending on the
content delivery.

Most of the monitoring will occur through the virtual lens, however some will be managed through alternative forms, depending on the content. We will be focusing on essential standards for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, and providing feedback to students on those standards.

Please attach a budget outline estimating additional expenditures associated with the Plan and sources of revenue to pay for those expenditures.

District/ PSA Response:

Since 85% of our general fund budget focuses on salary and benefits, we will continue to pay and provide these benefits for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year (June 30, 2020).

The HASS consolidated application may include some amendments for technology needs through Title I and Title IV funding, however this will be minimal based on the current technology that we already have for student learning.

Please describe the manner in which district administrators, board members, teachers, and any representatives of teachers collaborated in development of the Plan.

District/ PSA Response:

This plan was sent to all administrators, the Board of Education President (Luke Haywood), HEA president (Wendi McCausey), and HEA Vice-President (Mike McCann) to assist with collaboration of this plan. This was done through Google and drafted until all people had the chance to read the plan twice.
Please describe the methods the district will use to notify pupils and parents or guardians of the Plan.

District/ PSA Response:

We will place the plan on the district’s website. The plan will also be communicated through social media, PowerSchool, email, and/or local print / broadcast media.

Please provide an estimate of the date on which the district will begin implementation of the Plan, which must be no later than April 28, 2020.

District/ PSA Response:

We plan on distributing instructional packets starting Thursday, April 16, 2020, at several buildings. This will also include lending out ChromeBooks for those who need this resource.

This plan will continue to be fluid weekly to bi-weekly as new content is delivered and monitored. However, we plan on establishing a routine moving forward so that parents/students have a comfort level with the amount of content and resources provided for quality growth, depending on many factors.

Please describe the assistance, to the extent feasible, to pupils enrolled in any postsecondary dual enrollment courses under Public Act of , as amended, MCL . to ., and Career and Technical Preparation Act, PA , as amended, MCL . to ., in completing the courses during the - school year.

District/ PSA Response:

Hastings Area School System has been and will continue to be in contact with all of its postsecondary dual enrollment partners. We have provided opportunities to our students to finalize their courses virtually. If there are barriers for the student, we have worked to provide hot spots, wifi, or internet access for the student. If any barrier can not be overcome, the college/university has already communicated that the student can take an incomplete and finish the course in the future starting from the point where they left off.
Concurrently, HASS will be directly following the MDE guidelines on Career and Technical Educational programming. Students will be allowed to use any and all resources to provide knowledge of their learning and standards. HASS will be assisting CTE students to complete their course of study, and limit the pathway in which they have chosen. This may include, but is not limited to virtual learning, project-based learning, independent practice, essays, etc.

**Please describe how the district will continue to provide or arrange for continuation of food distribution to eligible pupils.**

District/ PSA Response:

Hastings Area School System has had an exceptional food service program from the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak. Hourly employees and volunteers work hand-in-hand to provide food service to eleven different locations within Hastings Area School System and Barry County.

We plan on continuing this service to our students and families. We also have partners with the Barry County United Way and Barry County Community Foundation to provide assistance within this area for food itself, or the delivery of the food.

**Please confirm that the district will continue to pay school employees while redeploying staff to provide meaningful work in the context of the Plan, subject to any applicable requirements of a collective bargaining agreement.**

District/ PSA Response:

Hastings Area School System confirms that we will be paying school employees while redeploying staff to provide meaningful work in the context of the Plan, subject to any applicable requirements of a collective bargaining agreement.

Salaried employees will continue to get their bi-weekly pay for the remainder of the school year (June 30, 2020). Hourly employees will also be paid for the remainder of the school year, however this will be based on their collective bargaining agreement and based on what HASS has budgeted for the 2019-2020 school year. This may change depending on the hourly employees work changes based on the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, food service employees may have different expectations.
depending on the need for food within the community.

Describe how the district will evaluate the participation of pupils in the Plan.

District/ PSA Response:

Hastings Area School System will be keeping track of how many instructional packets are picked up weekly/bi-weekly. We will also be asking teachers and principals to have a system that will track participation virtually on a weekly/bi-weekly basis.

After monitoring the participation rates, we will be reaching out to students to develop plans on how to connect with them for better service. Ultimately, we understand that there will be some barriers within this plan, however we also understand that we will have to evaluate and modify the plan to increase participation rates for pupils.

Please describe how the district will provide mental health supports to pupils affected by a state of emergency or state of disaster prompted by COVID-19.

District/ PSA Response:

The Hastings Counseling / Social Work department, including employees funded by 31(6) will be providing a plan for mental (social-emotional) support for all students given the state of emergency prompted by COVID-19.

This will include resources through video / virtual learning, and provide supplemental strategies to assist with anxiety, depression, and other symptoms that students may experience by students affected by the state of emergency.

Please describe how the district will support the efforts of the intermediate district in which the district is located to mobilize disaster relief child care centers as described in Executive Order - or any executive order that follow it.

District/ PSA Response:

Hastings Area School System has multiple sites that are licensed for child care within our local district. We also partner with the Barry Intermediate School District
through the Great Start Readiness Program, which makes the connection and relationship a little easier if mobilization would need to occur. Furthermore, we have an already established daycare system, which supports multiple age levels and would be a great resource if we need to assist the BISD.

**Does the District to adopt a balanced calendar instructional program for the remainder of the - school year? Does the District plan to adopt a balanced calendar instructional program for the - school year?**

**District/ PSA Response:**

No. At this time, we do not plan on adopting a balanced calendar for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, or the 2020-2021 school year. We have already established a 2020-2021 school calendar while bargaining with the local HEA. We are in discussions of this as a possibility, but have come to an agreement that we would need further discussion on this topic over the next two to three years, including parents and the community.

**Name of District Leader Submitting Application:**

Dan Remenap - Superintendent

Hastings Area School System

Date Approved: April 8, 2020

**Name of ISD Superintendent/Authorizer Designee:**

Richard Franklin - Superintendent

Barry Intermediate School District

Date Submitted to Superintendent and State Treasurer:

Confirmation approved Plan is posted on District/PSA website:

Budget Attachment (April 8, 2020)
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