



The **Butler County Educational Service Center (BCESC)** continues to provide services to our students and families as well as the teachers that we serve in our service districts. During this trying time we are focused on living out our Core Values of: Integrity, Family-Focused, Compassion and Respect. Our districts and families look to the **BCESC** to guide them and provide the support they need to meet their needs.

We have been providing support to our districts in transporting food on a daily basis to children in need.

Human Resources has provided support and guidance to other HR offices who wish to develop electronic processes to replace their current paper processes.

The **Curriculum and PD Team** has compiled and distributed online learning resources through a Google Site. Networking meetings for curriculum directors and counselors are continuing through virtual platforms. Online courses for professional learning scheduled for the spring semester are underway. We continue to provide virtual coaching to districts where it is possible.

The **Butler County Family and Children First Council** is keeping families and professionals updated on resources available during these challenging times through a weekly e-newsletter and social media. We are supporting multi-system youth and their caretakers who are engaged in **Community Wraparound** through virtual team meetings to connect them to resources, review crisis plans, and help in the transition to at-home learning. The **Pause Respite** program is supporting caretakers who have children with disabilities through a Facebook page, as well as, a growing closed Facebook group. Pause is creating picture schedules, sharing activities, curriculum & tips, and providing 2 daily check-ins at 1pm and 9pm via Zoom conferencing to give parents hope (and a chance to vent & de-stress). The **Prevention Coalition** is collaborating with other coalitions and school-based prevention providers to create video challenges and chats on the 40 Developmental Assets to increase resiliency and protective factors during this challenging time.

The Success Program remains focused on its mission to meet the needs of students and families in Butler and Preble Counties. While working remotely, staff members (Liaisons) continue to initiate phone contact with families they have been serving, assessing their individual needs, and helping them to access appropriate resources. They also continue to take calls from new families, who are finding themselves in need of resources for possibly the first time, due to job closings. School Principals and other school staff members continue to be able to refer families to Liaisons. In particular, Liaisons are ensuring that families are aware of food resources, which seems to be the central need being identified at this time. Specifically,

Liaisons are making sure families are aware of breakfast and lunch meals that are being provided by a family's particular school district, as well as educating families about the 5 food distribution sites that are being managed by the BCESC, and held each week in Butler and Preble Counties. Many of the Liaisons are either assisting their school districts in their feeding efforts or are volunteering at one of the BCESC food distribution sites.

Additionally, Liaisons continue to communicate with community partners, and to collaborate in order to meet the needs of families. The Success Program continues its partnership with the Emergency Money Fund Board (EMF) in Butler County. The EMF Board raises money to assist families, who because of a hardship, are unable to pay for things such as rent, utilities, car repairs, etc. This unique partnership allows the Success Program to be able to identify families in need of this financial assistance and to make sure they are able to receive funds. The EMF Committee continues to operate remotely and is prepared to help families as appropriate.

The **Butler County ESC School Safety and Security Department** is supporting all Public School Districts in Butler County and the Educational Service Center programs in response to this unprecedented time. The **Director of Public School Safety** is the Liaison for all Schools/Districts in Butler County to the Butler County Emergency Operations Center for the duration of this event.

To date, the Director of Public School Safety met with all Butler County Superintendents, Operations Managers and Public Relations personnel.

- Discussed advanced planning for possible school closures, cancelled mass gathering events and communications to staff and parents
- Discussed possible resource shortages and planning gaps
- Communications with Superintendents and School Leadership on resource requests and food delivery for students
- Shared the ODH Directive on Election Day Poll Closure (March 17) and Stay at Home Order (March 22)
 - o Districts/Schools are essential functions to remain open
 - o Continued food distribution
 - o Continued information sharing with communities and families affected
- FEMA Declaration – FM# EM-3457-OH (March 13); shared Public Assistance requirements and Application process for reimbursements
- Shared Volunteer and Donations management information with schools/districts to share with communities
- Information Sharing to include community services for families that are affected by COVID-19
- Reached out to District/school nurses to assist in possible medical staff shortage at affected facilities

- Worked with Districts/Schools on inventory of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and facilitating the donation to the EOC (logistics section) for the purposes of distributing to our essential agencies (i.e. Hospitals, first responders, medical facilities)
- Working with Districts/Schools on potential long term closure
 - o Identifying critical vendors to ensure no disruption in the supply chain
- Assessing any impact of potential severe weather during the Stay at Home order, to include:
 - o Food Distribution site
 - o Transportation
 - o Family homes affected
- Identifying possible isolation /quarantine locations among the Districts/Schools to assist in possible overflow of medical facilities
 - o Coordinating with Public Health, EOC and hospitals

Met with Hamilton County Public School Safety Administrator to share information and best practices in order to create consistency across all schools

- Talked with any districts that may be impacted as positive cases come out in Butler County

Communicated discussions and plans with Private/Parochial schools in Butler County

Communicating/Updating with essential partners on District/School feeding sites; essential for information sharing:

- United Way 211
- Butler Tech
- Butler County Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

Communications with Hamilton County ESC and Ohio School Safety Center (OSSC) to discuss current district/school emergency management program

- Discussed possible extensions for plans updates; Extensions will be given to districts/schools that must submit during this event
- Discussed unmet needs and planning gaps from the schools and districts

Participates in the Butler County Community Update on COVID-19 hosted by three (3) health districts and the Emergency Management Agency in Butler County.

- Discuss ongoing issues with school closures and planning for recovery.

Coordinating with ESC Head Start Director, the EOC and Shared Harvest to assist in need for volunteers to help with food distribution at selected sites for families in need.

- Reached out to community partners to help with volunteer need to distribution sites
 - Ohio National Guard will now assist Shared Harvest in Packaging and Distributing Food to ESC sites
 - o Working with Ohio State Patrol to provide site security

The **Butler County ESC Early Childhood Programs** are supporting all families in Public School Districts in Butler, Hamilton and Preble County. This includes the families in birth to five programming through a partnership with Shared Harvest to provide 5 distribution sites for food boxes. The sites include Fairfield, Hamilton, West Chester, Middletown and Camden. The first week we provided 1,598 boxes of food. We will continue this distribution weekly until it is no longer possible.

- Continuing to provide Central Intake for a nine county region for all prenatal to 3 programs out of ODH and ODD working remotely
- Working with ODD to provide ongoing assessments and evaluation for Early Intervention and IFSP services, and contacting families regularly to assure needs are met
- Continue to provide virtual home visiting for Help Me Grow and Early Head Start families, checking in regularly to assure all needs are met
- In preschool programming we are working on providing remote activities and Family Support Staff are contacting families regularly to assure needs are met.
- In preschool special education, we are providing both written and virtual guidance to our programs on how to deliver specially designed instruction to address IEP goals remotely or in a method that works well for the differing needs of our families.
- Preschool Intervention Specialists and related service personnel are contacting families at a minimum of once a week to check up on students and provide any needed resources to parents, answer questions about activities sent home and assess progress on those activities.
- Preschool ETR and IEP meetings are continuing to be held when applicable either by phone or virtually through zoom meetings, google or other forms of technology.
- Information is being shared with county preschool supervisors and principals regarding guidance distributed by ODE, legal services and state support teams.
- Questions from districts are being collected and shared with SST contacts to be included in problem solving at the state level so that concerns at the local level are communicated to those who can provide adequate guidance on next steps.

The **Special Services Department** is providing ongoing support to districts and families throughout several counties including Butler, Preble and Hamilton. Our focus has been on

assisting Special Education Directors in devising plans for how they may provide ongoing specialized instruction as well as how they may provide access to the curriculum that is being provided. Our Speech Language & Audiology Supervisor has been at the forefront of gathering best practice information on how to provide teletherapy by facilitating weekly meetings with the Ohio Speech SLP/AUD Supervisory Network. Information is being distributed and daily meetings are occurring to get staff members as well as districts ready for the remainder of the school year. For specialized programs we have focused first on making sure the students and families have the necessary resources at home including food, internet access, chromebooks, mental health support etc. We have moved into the second phase for developing continued mental health services as well as educating students. Ongoing virtual meetings for support with all districts and staff will continue through this crisis.