LEA Information
Institution Name: BUFFALO CITY SD
BEDS Code: 14060010000
Institution Id: 800000052968
County: ERIE
CEO Name: KRINER CASH
CEO Title: SUPERINTENDENT
Address
712 CITY HALL
BUFFALO NY, 14202

Learning Materials and Content
1. What learning materials and content will your district utilize in your continuity of learning plan? Please select all that apply.
   - Paper textbooks, and other content (books, magazines, etc.)
   - Digital copies of textbooks
   - Digital content and activities provided by the district, either free or subscription-based
   - Online learning courses or course content modules
   - Other

Communication Tools
2. What communication tools will your district utilize in your continuity of learning plan? Please select all that apply.
   - Telephone and/or video calling
   - Email
   - Video Conferencing
   - Social Media
   - Website
   - Learning Management System (LMS)
   - Other
   2a. (Please Specify)
       Please see description below and hyperlinked documents

3. Provide additional information about how parents and families will be notified of the district's plan for providing continuity of learning opportunities for students.
   Parents and families were notified of the district’s plan for continuity of learning via a mailed letter, School Messenger (text messages and phone calls), and the Schoology LMS. In order to position the district at the forefront of the media, the BCSD Superintendent, Dr. Kriner Cash, has also held a series of press conferences to provide explicit information to parents and students regarding the District’s plan for continuity of education. Additionally, pertinent information for parents and families has been posted on a specific webpage on the District’s website. Links to learning tools by grade levels are available on the District’s website along with videos, log in information for Clever and parent instructions for access to Schoology (https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sdRAnCvsSSt0qxc-gTqmaC5xTDbklyaC6T?usp=sharing). Information is also shared via our Parent Portal.

Teacher/Student Interface
4. **How is your district planning for teachers and students to interact during the school closure as a result of COVID-19?** Please select all that apply.

- Teacher office hours, virtually (online) via video conferencing and/or chat, and/or phone
- Scheduled teacher/student(s) check-ins, virtual (online) and/or via phone
- Asynchronous communication, feedback, and support via e-mail or LMS
- Other

4a. **(Please specify)**

   The District uses the LMS Schoology to facilitate teacher and student communication. (See below)

**Instruction**

5. **What methods of instruction does your district plan to implement in your continuity of learning plan?** Please select all that apply.

- Hard copy (paper) instructional materials provided to students
- Instructional materials provided via technology, such as posted on a teacher website or available through an LMS
- Individual or small group synchronous instruction facilitated using technologies such as telephone or video conferencing
- Large-group or whole class synchronous instruction facilitated using technologies such as telephone or video conferencing
- Recorded instruction disseminated through technology, including via podcast, dedicated website, or Learning Management System, scheduled or on demand television, DVD/CD
- Online learning course, accessed through an LMS, self-directed and self-paced
- Online learning course, accessed through an LMS, taught by a teacher
- Other

**Technology Access**

6. **Student Devices**

- We provide all students with a computing device
- All students use personal devices
- We provide computing devices to some students
- Our continuity of learning plan does not include the use of technology

7. **Teacher Devices**

- We provide all teachers with a computing device
- All teachers use personal devices
- We provide computing devices to some teachers
- Our continuity of learning plan does not include the use of technology

8. **Student Home Access**

- All students have high-speed internet access at home
- Not all students have high-speed internet access at home

8a. **Please provide further information, including what the district has done to assist students with obtaining home internet access, if applicable.**

   The District recognizes there is a digital divide within our parent and family community. In an effort to bridge that divide and provide another option for internet access at home, the BCSD has procured 2,000 Verizon MiFi mobile hotspots that will be made available in four of the District’s community schools. Further, the District has communicated the contact information for obtaining free broadband and WiFi from a local service provider to qualifying K-12 and college student families.

   BCSD has also created a hotline for parents and students with questions about computers/connections.

9. **Teacher Home Access**

- All teachers have high-speed internet access at home
- Not all teachers have high-speed internet access at home
9a. Please provide further information, including what the district has done to assist teachers with obtaining home internet access, if applicable.

Presently, the District is not aware of any teachers without internet access; however, a plan to survey the teacher community regarding internet access is being developed. If the district finds there is a need to provide some teachers with internet access, alternatives to do so will be explored including using Verizon MiFi hotspots. In the interim, the District has communicated the contact number for obtaining free broadband and WiFi from a local service provider to qualifying K-12 and college student families.
10. **In addition to the information above, use the text box below to describe how your district’s plan addresses continuity of learning that meets the unique needs of all students.**

Please Note: Supplemental Buffalo Public Schools’ materials and documents are hyperlinked at https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sdRAnCsSSt0qx-gTqmaC5xtDbklyaC6T?usp=sharing

**Additional Detail Regarding Continuity of Learning**

Elementary students received hard copy learning materials from the District (e.g., K-6 reading logs, PK journals, a kindergarten math packet, gr 7-8 1619 lessons, etc.) as well as content and activities from each student’s classroom teacher. A checklist was distributed to schools to provide guidance on what District purchased materials should be sent home (e.g., textbooks, novels, high frequency word lists, etc.) (https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sdRAnCsSSt0qx-gTqmaC5xtDbklyaC6T?usp=sharing). If elementary students were unable to pick up learning materials, deliveries were made directly to their homes. The District also posted educational materials in our online learning management system, Schoology, as did most teachers through their own Schoology accounts. This includes a suggested schedule for elementary students to follow each day (https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sdRAnCsSSt0qx-gTqmaC5xtDbklyaC6T?usp=sharing). High school students were provided an array of learning materials from their classroom teachers as appropriate. A checklist was distributed to schools to provide guidance on what District purchased materials should be sent home (e.g., textbooks, laptops, 1619 lessons, etc.) (https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sdRAnCsSSt0qx-gTqmaC5xtDbklyaC6T?usp=sharing). The District posted materials in our online learning management system, Schoology, as did most teachers in their own Schoology accounts.

High school credit recovery and accrual courses are delivered via an electronic learning platform called GradPoint. These will continue during the period of closure. Tests will be administered when students return to school.

Students in Advanced Placement courses can access teacher assigned resources and materials in the College Board’s AP Classroom, Code.org, and through their AP courses set up in Schoology and can communicate with their teachers through this platform.

The Buffalo City School District (BCSD) uses a variety of communication tools to provide continuity of learning. These tools include text/telephone (School Messenger), district email (O365), video conferencing (LifeSize), social media (WorkPlace by Facebook, Facebook, Twitter), the District website (www.buffaloschools.org), Infinite Campus Parent Portal, and Schoology, our learning management system. Additionally, Schoology has the ability to conduct video conferencing.

The District also provides language access support for families who speak a language other than English. BCSD provided all teachers and school leaders access to a free app called Talking Points to communicate with families in their preferred language. In addition, BCSD translated food service information and pertinent information about Covid-19 and will continue to provide translation services as needed.

Parents and families were notified of the district’s plan for continuity of learning via a mailed letter, School Messenger (text messages and phone calls), and the Schoology LMS. In order to position the district at the forefront of the media, the BCSD Superintendent, Dr. Kriner Cash, has also held a series of press conferences to provide explicit information to parents and students regarding the District’s plan for continuity of education.

Additionally, pertinent information for parents and families has been posted on a specific webpage on the District’s website. Links to learning tools by grade levels are available on the District’s website along with videos, log in information for Clever and parent instructions for access to Schoology (https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sdRAnCsSSt0qx-gTqmaC5xtDbklyaC6T?usp=sharing). Information is also shared via our Parent Portal. The District uses the CMS Schoology to facilitate teacher and student communication. BCSD has also created a hotline for parents and students with questions about computers/connections.

Teachers can communicate with each other via Facebook Workplace to share ideas and strategies as a district wide professional learning community. Elementary students received hard copy learning materials from the District (e.g., K-6 reading logs, PK journals, a kindergarten math packet, gr 7-8 1619 lessons, etc.) as well as content and activities from each student’s classroom teacher. A checklist was distributed to schools to provide guidance on what District purchased materials should be sent home (e.g., textbooks, novels, high frequency word lists, etc.) (https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sdRAnCsSSt0qx-gTqmaC5xtDbklyaC6T?usp=sharing). If elementary students were unable to pick up learning materials, deliveries were made directly to their homes. The District also posted educational materials in our online learning management system, Schoology, as did most teachers through their own Schoology accounts. This includes a suggested schedule for elementary students to follow each day (https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sdRAnCsSSt0qx-gTqmaC5xtDbklyaC6T?usp=sharing). High school students were provided an array of learning materials from their classroom teachers as appropriate. A checklist was distributed to schools to provide guidance on what District purchased materials should be sent home (e.g., textbooks, laptops, 1619 lessons, etc.) (https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sdRAnCsSSt0qx-gTqmaC5xtDbklyaC6T?usp=sharing). The District posted materials in our online learning management system, Schoology, as did most teachers in their own Schoology accounts.

High school credit recovery and accrual courses are delivered via an electronic learning platform called GradPoint. These will continue during the period of closure. Tests will be administered when students return to school.
Students in Advanced Placement courses can access teacher assigned resources and materials in the College Board’s AP Classroom, Code.org, and through their AP courses set up in Schoology and can communicate with their teachers through this platform.

The District provides electronic resources such as digital copies of textbooks where available, and applications like Lexia Core5 and PowerUp, myON, Moby Max Math, Think Central, Nearpod, Pearson Realize, and Castle Learning. In addition, the District has been in contact with multiple vendors to secure free access to online tools like NewsELA, BrainPop, and RAZ-Kids to allow students to accelerate their learning should they wish to do so. Our local Public Media (PBS) station is also providing learning opportunities for our students. https://www.wned.org/education-kids/learn-at-home/

As part of the District’s one-to-one learning program, all students in grades 3-12 have been assigned a computer device. During the COVID-19 school closure, grades 9-12 were allowed to sign the devices out and take them home for continued learning. Over 7,500 devices were distributed to high school students to provide digital continuity of education during the closure. The District is making plans to accommodate students in other grade levels who may need to take devices home.

BCSD has also created a hotline for parents and students with questions about computers/connections. All teachers have a district-assigned laptop as part of normal daily instruction. During the COVID-19 school closure period, teachers are using those laptops remotely for continuity of instruction. In the event that any teacher notifies the District that s/he is without a laptop, every effort will be made to make one available.

The District communicated with special educators via emailed memo regarding the expectation for teachers to adapt student assignments (https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sdRAnCsSSt0qx-gTqmaC5xTdBklyaC6T?usp=sharing). Special Education resources like graphic organizers, question stems and decodable stories were also uploaded into Schoology by the District to assist in accommodating the work sent home. Additional supports were uploaded for students with a hearing impairment, visual impairment, occupational therapy need, physical therapy need and speech needs. Speech teachers also provided packets of work for each of the students on their caseload. Furthermore, therapists hand-delivered equipment needed to access the curriculum to the homes of students who have a visual impairment.

Wherever possible and as needed, teachers and SST Staff who teach or work with students with IEPs, 504s, safety plans, or other students in need of intense mental health services will coordinate with supervisors and team members to contact students and families to provide alternative instructional options (https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sdRAnCsSSt0qx-gTqmaC5xTdBklyaC6T?usp=sharing) Social workers and psychologists were encouraged to contact students who have social emotional needs. Students with significant mental health needs were linked to Say Yes Buffalo to receive counseling services during the closure. Say Yes is coordinating with 10 mental health organizations that service our students to ensure continuity of service. District social workers are receiving support information which can be shared with parents/families.

To provide service to our special population of medically fragile students at Schools 84, 89, and 304, parents were contacted to see if they would like to have their child receive their regular OT/PT services in the home.

English as a new languages (ENL) teachers were instructed to send resources like graphic organizers and trade books home with students at the early stages of English language development. In addition, the District sent translated reading logs in students’ home languages and posted online reading resources in English and in students’ home languages.

For our dual-language learners various bilingual Spanish resources were sent home with students and electronic resources were also provided via District Schoology courses.

The District also provides language access support for families who speak a language other than English. BCSD provides all teachers and school leaders access to an app called Talking Points to communicate with families in their preferred language. As a further support, school leaders have access to Language Line in order to communicate with all of our families, particularly students who speak a low-incidence language. In addition, BCSD translated food service information and pertinent information about Covid-19 and will continue to provide translations as needed.

Additionally, a hotline flyer was sent home to our multilingual families. The flyer includes the name and contact information for each of our Cultural Resource Specialists (CRS). Families can call the CRS that speaks their home language. The CRS will reply within 24 hours. Furthermore, should school leaders and/or teachers have concerns and would like the CRS to check in with a multilingual family they will complete a google-form that will live on the District’s website. Lastly, Journey’s End Academic Coaches (Refugee School Impact Grant) are available (cell phone & in-person) to support families as they are assigned to some of our high ELL buildings (School 6, 18, 45, & 207).

Finally, the District will provide online professional development opportunities to teachers during the course of the closure (https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sdRAnCsSSt0qx-gTqmaC5xTdBklyaC6T?usp=sharing).