

This year, the South Williamsport Area School District has partnered with the Nittany Learning Services to provide additional supports for student in grades 7th-12th. Nittany Learning Services will be providing a Customized Learning Program (CLP) and a Positive Education Program (PEP).

The Customized Learning Program (CLP) is a voluntary in-house program, located within the school district. The CLP follows the 180-day school district calendar and daily academic bell schedule providing 990 hours or more of instructional time. Instruction is provided at the secondary level with a standard aligned curriculum in accordance with Chapter 4 of the State Board of Education. Students in the CLP can be enrolled in Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, English, Physical Education and Health or other electives. During the school day, either an appropriately certified teacher in each of the 4 core subjects provides assignments and visits the classroom to aid or instruction is provided virtually with a certified staff. NLS staff mentors each student by providing close academic support and accountability.

This program provides Tier 1 and 2 support and functions within the school PBIS. The CLP was developed to foster and enhance the emotional, social, and academic needs of students. Students returning or entering the district from an outside placement will have the opportunity to participate in the CLP. The CLP can provide additional academic support, credit recovery and assistance to students who have difficulties in the traditional classroom. Each student can return to the traditional classroom setting upon request or by demonstrating improvement in areas where support was requested.

The goal of the CLP program is to present each student the opportunity to develop, grow, and receive the additional support they need to return to a traditional classroom environment with success and confidence. Students can attend the CLP on a part-time or full-time basis. Student performance is tracked daily and shared with school district personnel.

The PEP is a short-term placement that addresses the academic needs in lieu of an out of school suspension.

The CLP/PEP staff are trained in Safe Crisis Management (SCM), de-escalation techniques, conflict resolution strategies, Choice Theory concepts and are Trauma Informed. The CLP/PEP staff focus their interventions on Restorative Practices. The CLP/PEP staff build meaningful relationships with students and attempt to reconnect them to the academic environment. The CLP staff keeps in frequent communication with the students' parents or guardians to share successes and challenges. When a student is absent, CLP staff contact the students' parent or guardian and attempt to motivate the student to attend school on a consistent basis. CLP staff can also provide times for students to check in or check out of the program. During that time, CLP staff can teach strategies and skills for a successful day.

Placement of students with IEPs in the CLP must come through the IEP process. Instruction for students with IEP's and English Learners must be provided by appropriately certified teachers.

Instruction must meet IEP and EL service plan requirements and this program complies with applicable requirements of the Public-School Code and regulations.

Students are not primarily placed into the CLP based on any one of the following reasons: disregard for school authority – persistent violation of school policy and rules, display or use of a controlled substance on school property / during a school affiliated activity, violent or threatening behavior on school property or during school affiliated activity, possession of a weapon on school property, commission of a criminal act on school property or during school affiliated activity, misconduct that would merit suspension or expulsion under school district policy. The students in this program are not considered “disruptive” based on the standards defined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.