

**West Chester
Independent Living and Transition House
(WCILTH)
For students ages 18-21**



Background

- The district's goal is to operate all of its own programs at the local level vs contracting with other entities to run it. Running the transition program allows us to utilize district staff and have it be in the West Chester community. We will contract for some specific transition services through the CCIU.
- Purchase of the land, educational zoning
 - Multiple sites looked at
 - Went through process of educational zoning with Borough Zoning Committee

Background

- Committee work
 - Curriculum – what curriculum exists and what do we need to purchase?
 - Referral process – what information do we need in order to effectively program for students?
 - Identification of students – discussed students who are in current IU programs and 12th grade at WCASD buildings
 - Review of programs in the area – Owen J. Roberts, Downingtown, Transitional Living Program (TLP)
 - Supervisors visited Downingtown's program and TLP

Our Mission

To provide independent living, employment, and educational instruction to students with disabilities in the West Chester Area School District, ages 18-21.
To provide individuals with vocational support, leisure skills, and community-based instruction, in preparation for meaningful participation in their local community.

What is WCILTH?

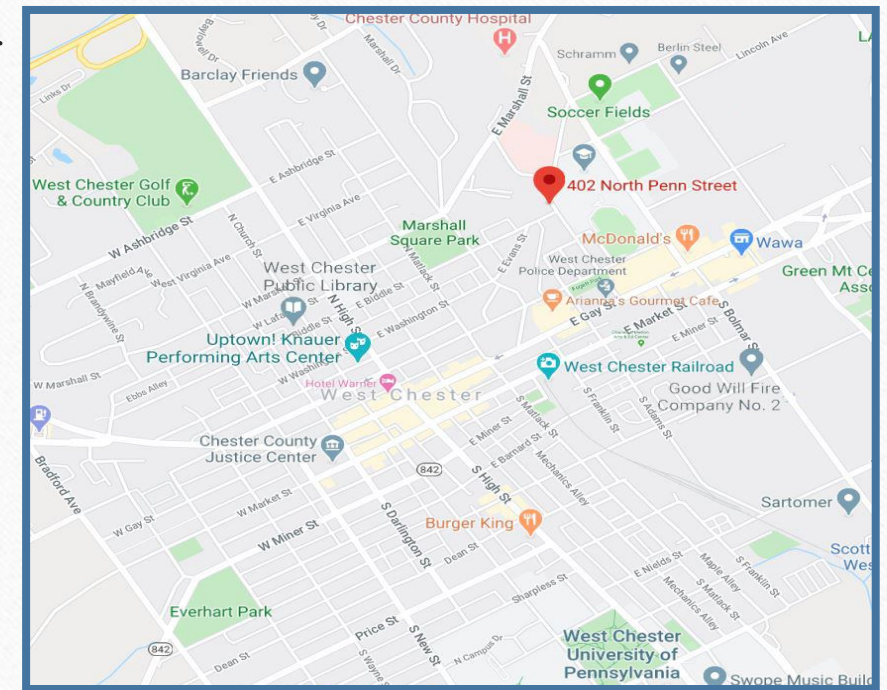
- The West Chester **Independent Living and Transition House (ILTH)** for WCASD students ages 18-21 emphasizes instruction in functional academics, daily living skills, and employment skills.

Program goals/support

- Staffed by highly qualified teachers, support staff, therapists, travel trainer, and job coaches. ILTH will prepare students for life after school by focusing on:
 - Independent living experiences
 - Self-advocacy/personal safety
 - Occupational guidance/job skills
 - Food preparation
 - Community exploration

Where will instruction take place?

- Students in the program will spend a portion of their day in our ILTH Home located across the street from Henderson High School.
 - The home includes a bathroom, bedroom, kitchen, and living space all designed to help students develop independent living skills.



Where will instruction take place?

- Job instruction will occur on Discover worksites that are chosen to meet student need and areas of interest
- Community-based instruction will occur at various sites in the WCASD community

How will students get to the home and to job/community based instruction?

- Transportation to the ILTH home will be provided by WCASD transportation
- Community-based instruction in the greater WC community is provided by the district
- Discover work placement transportation will be provided by the CCIU

Which students are eligible for the program?

- High school teachers will refer students to the program based on transition goals established by their IEP teams.
- Referrals will be made for WCASD students who have completed their 12th grade of high school programming.
- Referral process will include input from teachers and parents.
 - Prior to entry to the program, high school teachers will work with special education liaisons and WCILTH program teacher to share transition goals and instructional needs.
 - WCILTH program teacher will work with parents prior to entering the program (summer 2020) to develop common areas of need and what to work on.

Frequently asked questions

- Below are some frequently asked questions that we have received from teachers and parents.
 - Q: How often will students be going to Discover worksites?
 - A: To start, we will continue with the frequency that students currently receive Discover which is usually 2-3 times per week for between 3.5-4.5 hours per session.
 - Q: How often will community-based instruction take place?
 - A: The exact frequency has not been determined but the goal is to set up 2 community trips per week. This will likely change to add more opportunities during some weeks, while also adjusting for changes in schedule.
 - Q: How will I be notified of itinerary for trips or changes in schedule?
 - A: Teacher will use the Remind app (or some similar app with same functionality) and will send out newsletters. Schoology may also be utilized.
 - Q: What will the schedule be?
 - A: Exact schedule has not been determined but will be guided by Discover work placement. All time not in the community for trips or work will be spent at the house.

FAQs continued

- Q: When will I be contacted about my child's goals and instructional needs for next year?
 - A: During the summer of 2020 the WCILTH program teacher will be scheduling time with you, and your child's current teacher, to review your child's unique needs and gather your input.
- Q: If I am a parent of students in grades 9-11, do I need to do anything now?
 - A: No, but please do ask any questions that you might have. Your child's high school teacher has been involved in the development of the program
- Q: Will my child receive related services while in the program?
 - A: Yes. Your child will receive related services, per their IEP. The WCASD is in the process of hiring a new speech pathologist who will be at WCILTH 2 days per week

FAQs continued

- Q: How will the program ensure safety for all students in the home and in the community?
 - A: The program is in the process of developing rules and norms for all students to comply with. Students will be involved in the development of these expectations and they will be posted.
- Q: What level of behavioral support will be embedded in the program?
 - A: The program will be working with a BCBA to continue implementation of student behavior support plans if necessary.
- Q: How will nursing services be provided?
 - A: Nursing services will be provided at Henderson High School

FAQs continued

- Q: What will we do if we are starting the year virtually due to guidance from the Governor and/or the PA Department of Education?
 - WCASD will comply with state requirements for opening schools including the WCILTH program. If necessary, services such as Discover, academic support, etc. will be offered online and will be documented through the Prior Written Notice. Every effort is being made to offer the program in the home and community, but it may not be feasible based on the anticipated social distancing requirements.

FAQs continued

- Q: How many student can attend and is there still an option to attend the TLP?
 - A: We have capacity to support the 12 students currently referred for the program, and any joining the program in future years. We are not making referrals to the CCIU TLP at this time because we are able to meet the needs of our students in the district program.
- Q: Is it possible to tour the house to get an idea of what It looks like?
 - A: WCASD will make every effort to have parents tour the building, pending the Governor's orders regarding social distancing. A virtual tour will be considered as an option.
- Q: What are some of the worksites utilized via Discover?
 - A: There are many worksites utilized through Discover. Students at WCILTH will have access to the same worksites they have had in the past through Discover – sites that match their interests and abilities.

FAQs continued

- Q: What is the TLP?
 - A: The TLP is the Transitional Living Program, a program similar to WCILTH that is run by the Intermediate Unit.
- Q: Will there be a relationship with WCU as far as the students going to campus for programs with WCU students
 - A: WCILTH is currently pursuing options for a partnership with WCU.
- Q: Can the student attend career academy at CCIU?
 - A: IEP placement is driven by student needs. WCASD students have attended Career Academy if their needs are able to be met in that setting. WCILTH is a program that will promote functional academics, employment, and independent living.

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FAQs continued

- Q: Are the students still able to access the school main building , such as gym?
 - A: At this time the students will have opportunities in the community to learn the skills they need to be independent adults. They will not need to access district buildings for the development of these skills.
- Q: Is the program only during school months? Do the students have summers off? Will they ever do evening activities?
 - A: The WCILTH is a day program (approximately 8:00 AM-2:30 PM). All students will be considered for ESY. Evening activities may be planned in the future.
- Q: Is now the time for parents to contact OVR?
 - A: Yes, parents are encouraged to contact OVR using the resources shared at IEP meetings.

Additional questions after the presentation?

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