

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING



— March 2024 Education Bulletin —

Welcome to the March 2024 edition of the **Luzerne Intermediate Unit (LIU) Office of Professional Learning's (OPL)** monthly education bulletin. The intent of this communication is to provide subscribers with:

- Professional learning opportunities offered by our department,
- Provide school leaders with educational policy support, and
- Provide tips for practicing educators.

This edition will focus on student College and Career Readiness and includes information related to Career Ready PA, Career Readiness Measures for public viewing, apprenticeship programs, and show how Remake Learning Days can support student Career Readiness.

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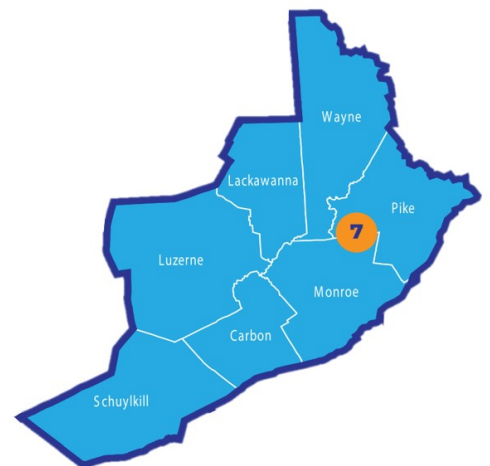
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CAREER READY PA REGIONS

THE LIU SERVES AS THE REGION 7 CAREER READY LEAD

In order to support schools in our Commonwealth, the PA Department of Education developed and supports a Career Ready PA. This is a cross-sector of collaboration, training, best practices, and resources meant to assist educators as they prepare their students to enter the workforce.

Career Ready PA consists of a Career Ready PA Coalition. This is a cadre of ten career specialists that cover the various regions throughout the state. The schools in the Luzerne Intermediate Unit (LIU) region are located in Career Ready PA Region 7 with the LIU serving as the lead of this region. Region 7 covers Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Schuylkill, and Wayne Counties and is lead by Susan Kuhl, the Region 7 Career Readiness Liaison.



What Career Ready services does the LIU provide? To promote, establish, and sustain a future-ready global workforce by engaging ALL learners in accessible, equitable, and meaningful career pathways, the Career Ready PA training team provides educators with access to professional development training opportunities that deliver the methodologies, best practices, and resources needed to prepare students for postsecondary success. Stakeholders include K-12 Educators, Community/Non-Profit, Employers, Military, Postsecondary, State Agencies/Libraries, STEM, and Workforce. Feel free to follow and use the #CareerReadyPA hashtag on your favorite social media outlets.

ARE YOU DOING IT RIGHT?

MEETING COLLEGE AND CAREER MEASURES

The PA Department of Education (PDE) is committed to the idea that “Pennsylvania’s economic future depends on having a well-educated and skilled workforce prepared to meet the current and projected demands of a global, knowledge-based, 21st century economy.”

To learn the degree by which your school is meeting this need, educators and members of the public can visit their school’s page on the Future Ready PA Index (<https://futurereadypa.org/>). Select the view link under College and Career Measures to learn about the percent of students in your school that have meet the requirements established by PDE. For example, all schools in the Commonwealth are obligated to offer their students throughout their educational career numerous opportunities to show evidence of career exploration and planning. The Career Standard Benchmark of the Future Ready PA Index identifies the percentage of students demonstrating meaningful engagement in career exploration and preparation aligned to the Career Education and Work (CEW) standards.



On the same page, the Index also provides information on the percent of students that have participated in Industry-Based Learning. This measure is designed to evaluate how students are engaging in work- and classroom-based activities by 12th grade. This measure also includes the number of students that have scored competent or advanced on the NOCTI/NIMS assessments, earned an Industry-Recognized Credential, and those that completed work-based learning experiences.

CAREER STANDARDS

CAREER EDUCATION AND WORK STANDARDS

Recently the PA Department of Education has proposed NEW PA Career Education and Work Standards to support the design of curriculum and school activities focused on student career readiness. These proposed standards are still in the regulatory review process and have not been officially approved at the date of this bulletin’s publication. If you would like to review these K-12 standards, please visit the following link and download a pdf version from the PA State Board of Education: <https://bit.ly/ProposedStandardsCEWPA>.

The standards are divided into four Strands. These include:

- **Career Awareness and Exploration:** Students investigate and analyze the educational requirements of careers, connect these to school opportunities, consider factors that drive career decision like the labor market.
- **Employability Skills:** Students develop through practice essential skills like critical thinking, problem solving, communication, teamwork, and time management.
- **Personal Interests and Career Planning:** Students identify their abilities and interests and evaluate these based on related careers.
- **Growth and Advancement:** Students build on the concept of being a lifelong learner by identifying the factors and strategies that will promote career growth.

Additional elements related to entrepreneurship are embedded throughout the strands by asking educators to provide student opportunities for them to develop entrepreneurial mindset and exploration of how to bring an idea or prototype to a career.



REMAKE LEARNING DAYS

REMAKE LEARNING DAYS SUPPORTS A CAREER READY PA

Remake Learning Days (RLD) is a festival of events that occurs from May 2 to May 22 and are hosted by members of the community. During these events, students learn through the lens of various themes: the arts, the outdoors, student voice, etc. An added element of RLD is the inclusion of the Career Ready Backpack Challenge. Each RLD event that is flagged as a “Career Ready” event includes student use of career ready skills or career exploration. By attending these events, students can earn credit for their school’s Career Ready Indicator.



How can schools participate?

1. Schools (One contact per school) Register for the Career Ready PA Backpack Challenge: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Backpack24>.
2. Advertise the RLD webpage to your students so that they can find events happening in their community. For schools interested in sharing “rack cards” with their student, please reach out to Dr. Rich Mackrell (rmackrell@liu18.org).
3. For each RLD Career Ready event a student attends, they will earn a Backpack Challenge Badge by completing a brief form that directs their evidence of participation to their school.

If your school earns 100+ badges, your school will be awarded a BANNER to showcase your students involvement in learning about careers in their community!

WHO IS WHO?

LIU OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

In each issue of the OPL Education Bulletin, you will get a chance to meet a member of our team. In this issue, we would like to introduce Sue Kuhl, Training and Consultation Staff, and the work she does in the LIU region and beyond.

Credentials: Bachelors of Science in Elementary Education from King’s College. Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership from Wilkes University. Sue is also a PA certified educator in Family Consumer Science, Mid-Level Mathematics, and Business Computer Information Technology.

Years of Service: Sue started at the Luzerne Intermediate Unit in 2001 as a Project MOM Vocational Liaison for the Wilkes-Barre Area CTC. Her positions also included an Adult Literacy Instructor, and Adult Literacy Coordinator before she moved to the our Training and Consultation (TaC) department in 2007. She continues in this role and continues to support school access to Career Education and Work Standards.

Other Initiatives: Sue’s other initiatives include her leadership as the Student Assistance Program (SAP) Regional Coordinator, supporting our regional schools as the LIU lead for School Climate, she is an active member of the LIU Safe Schools team, and assists LEAs with summer credit recovery.



NEED SUPPORT

LIU OPL NETWORK TRAININGS (MAR 2024 - APR 2024)

Did you know that the Office of Professional Learning regularly offers workshops at several locations? Areas of educator support include all core content areas, support for students with special needs, and classroom management. Below is a list of workshops happen very soon:

- AAC Apps - Consideration, Selection, and Implementation: March 6, 2024
- Mindfulness in the Classroom: March 13, 2024
- Youth Mental Health First Aid: March 14, 2024
- Behavior Series - Explicit Instruction: March 14, 2024
- AT Considerations in the IEP - Why and How?: March 20, 2024
- Psych Network for School Psychologists: April 5, 2024
- Reading Specialist Network Meeting: April 5, 2024
- AI EmpowerED: Integrating Artificial Intelligence in Education for Administrators and Teachers: April 16, 2024

All registrations are through MyLearning Plan. Visit our website at www.liu18.org and head to "Programs and Services". From here, go to "Event Registration" to find out more about these opportunities and to register.

We also hold monthly network meetings for Curriculum Coordinators and quarterly network meetings for school Principals.



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