

CENTRAL INTERMEDIATE UNIT 10 CONNECTIONS

MISSION: CIU 10 provides innovative and engaging educational services, for learners from birth to adult, which support equal access to educational opportunities.



VISION: Strategic partnerships promoting equity, access, and innovative educational opportunities for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DR. FRANCINE ENDLER

January was School Board Member Appreciation Month. I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge the work of our CIU 10 Board of Directors. A school board has nine members. An IU board has a minimum of 13 members as per school code. Each of the 12 districts in the IU is represented on our board, and we have one at-large member from the State College Area School District since they are the largest district in our footprint. Each year, the member school district board selects a representative to our board. We appreciate the added commitment of the time and effort that our IU 10 board members invest in our organization. The following individuals currently serve on the CIU 10 Board of Directors:

- President: Mr. Jeff Johnston (Keystone Central School District)
- Vice President: Ms. Jackie Huff (Member-at-Large, State College Area School District)
- Mr. Jason Penland (Bald Eagle Area School District)
- Ms. Jennifer Barnhart (Bellefonte Area School District)
- Ms. Shawna Rothrock (Clearfield Area School District)
- Ms. Amy Finn (Curwensville Area School District)
- Ms. Kasey Brink (Glendale School District)
- Ms. Holly Srock (Harmony Area School District)
- Ms. Rachel Perea (Moshannon Valley School District)
- Mr. Dan Hall (Penns Valley Area School District)
- Ms. Shawna Baney-Shaw (Philipsburg-Osceola Area School District)
- Dr. Anne Demo (State College Area School District)
- Mr. Norm Parks (West Branch Area School District)

Additionally, Haylee Hickman serves as the Board Secretary and Christinia Reifer is the Assistant Board Secretary. Dr. Scott Etter serves as solicitor. The work of this group of individuals is very important to our organization and we are grateful for their service.

In this Issue:

SECONDARY TRANSITION INITIATIVE

SHAPING MINDS THROUGH EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

STUDENTS OF STEELS

Secondary Transition Initiative

CIU 10 is committed to supporting the secondary transition services of youth with disabilities across the CIU 10 footprint. Supports related to post-secondary education and training, employment, and independent living skills begin when students turn 14. At this time, school districts, caregivers, and agencies come together to develop strategic programming to best support youth as they become contributing members within our communities. At CIU 10, our role is to support school districts with the development and implementation of best-practice secondary transition plans, as well as to foster engagement among the critical stakeholders to improve transition outcomes for youth.

One way in which CIU 10 supports the initiatives of stakeholders throughout this process is by hosting county-specific Transition Coordinating Council meetings throughout the year. Many agencies—including the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, mental health providers, support coordinators, employment specialist agencies, and school districts—come together to network and build relationships that impact the youth within our communities.



In December 2023, the Transition Coordinating Councils from Centre, Clearfield, and Clinton counties facilitated a Postsecondary Education Information Night for youth and their caregivers. This event was held virtually, and some school districts offered “satellite locations” where families were able to attend the presentation in person on a school campus in a group setting. This event featured a comprehensive financial aid presentation by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) as well as presentations from the disability services offices at the following post-secondary education institutions: Commonwealth University; Pennsylvania College of Technology; Commonwealth Technical Institute at the Hiram G. Andrews Center; South Hills School of Business and Technology; Penn Highlands Community College; and Penn State WorkLink. This event reached families in multiple school districts and shared a common theme throughout: with accommodations and self-advocacy skills, youth with disabilities can successfully participate in post-secondary education and training opportunities.

The outcomes of transition-age youth impact each and every one of us—personally and professionally. Transition-age youth eventually grow into adults within our communities. They become our colleagues, employees, and business partners. They may be our family members or our friends. At CIU 10, we strive to support the initiative of secondary transition to improve the success of youth as they achieve their postsecondary goals of graduating from high school and ultimately becoming meaningfully employed while positively contributing to their communities.

Should you have questions or wish to learn more about the secondary transition initiative at CIU 10, please contact Erin Chapman at echapman@ciu10.org.

Shaping Minds Through Early Childhood Education:

A Perspective from a Preschool Early Intervention Teacher

Think back to your earliest childhood memory. For many, those memories register around three years old. Some of my own earliest memories are from my early childhood education. You may recall playing with peers, story time, and making crafts, during your preschool years, but for me, my own early childhood education and experiences paved the way for the future student and subsequently the teacher that I am today.

Research consistently shows that children who receive quality early education and necessary early intervention services (i.e., supports and services for developmental delays and disabilities) are more likely to perform well and become lifelong learners and productive members of society.

Various studies prove that early intervention boosts learning opportunities within a child's natural environment. Early intervention therapists and teachers provide services in a child's natural environment, where they spend a majority of their time. This includes services in their homes, daycare settings, or their preschool classrooms. Services are tailored to meet the individual needs of each and every student we serve. Educational goals are created and further addressed based on families' input and concerns, and through assessment data and observation. Our collaboration with teachers, families, caregivers, and community partners reinforce learning and help to generalize skills across all settings for the child.

Children learn through play, which is a vital role in how we deliver our services for our early learners. Play serves as a catalyst for all areas of development especially cognitive and social growth. When children engage in play, they are developing essential problem-solving skills, creativity, and a curiosity for learning which fosters a foundation for future success. Examples of play include:

- Books and puzzles
- Dramatic play (dress up and puppets)
- Building
- Turn taking games
- Physical play (scavenger hunts, dancing, and movement activities)

Early childhood education provides foundational skills and knowledge that children need to excel in school as well as in life. As early childhood educators, we recognize the significance of play, providing services in natural environments, building strong relationships with families and collaborating with others to tailor education to each child's unique and individual needs. By doing so, we can set our young learners up for a brighter future that once shaped our own early memories and experiences.

A few things that parents can do with their children in addition to the activities listed above to promote early learning is encouraging your child to help with household tasks, taking your child to the grocery store and allowing them to help in the kitchen. For further information please feel free to contact Chelsea Scaife (cscaife@ciu10.org).

Central Intermediate Unit 10 Employment Opportunities

Interested applicants will find online applications on the Central Intermediate Unit 10 website at <https://www.ciu10.org/jobopenings>. Questions can be addressed by calling Human Resources at 814.422.4143. Candidates will be required to submit Act 34, 151, and 114 clearances as part of the application process. EOE.

Adult Education

Classroom Instructor/Student Support Coordinator – Full time – Clinton County

Preschool Early Intervention

Director of Preschool Early Intervention – Act 93 – 12 months

Itinerant Speech Therapist (2) – Full-time or Part-time – Clinton County

Special Education / Non Public Student Services

School Psychologist – Part time – School Age Students

Speech Therapist – Full time – School Age Students

Special Education Teachers (4) – Full-time – School Age Students

Enrichment Teacher – Part time – School Age Students

English Teacher – Part time – IY Students

Social Worker – Full time and Part Time – School Age Students

Interpreter/Communication Facilitator – Full-time - School Age Students

Student Support Services/Classroom Aide – Part-time- Centre County - Detention Center

Understanding the New Standards in PA

Teachers in Pennsylvania are adapting to a significant shift in science education driven by the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). These standards, implemented nationwide, emphasize three dimensions of learning: Science and Engineering Practices, Crosscutting Concepts, and Disciplinary Core Ideas, collectively known as 3D Teaching and Learning.

Pennsylvania, on July 16, 2022, officially embraced NGSS and customized it as STEELS, representing Science, Technology & Engineering, Environmental Literacy & Sustainability. While aligning closely with NGSS in science, Pennsylvania added standards in Technology & Engineering and Environmental Literacy & Sustainability. This expansion allows for local environmental connections and a broader exploration of technology applications.

NGSS marks a departure from rote memorization, encouraging inquiry-based learning. Students are prompted to think like scientists, engaging in hands-on activities and focusing on understanding the scientific inquiry process. NGSS aims to cultivate critical thinking skills and a passion for exploring the world by tapping into students' natural curiosity.

The shift to NGSS and STEELS requires educators to become facilitators of learning, guiding students through discovery rather than delivering information. Professional development is crucial for teachers to effectively implement these new approaches. CIU 10 provides workshops and networking opportunities for science teachers to navigate these changes.

STEELS standards are shaping a new era of science education in Pennsylvania. They aim to produce students who not only grasp scientific concepts but also possess critical thinking skills and can apply their knowledge. STEELS ensures that students are well-prepared to face the challenges of an evolving world, equipped with the skills and curiosity to explore the frontiers of science.

To learn more about the upcoming learning opportunities for the STEELS standards, please contact Melissa Duckworth at mduckworth@ciu10.org or visit <https://www.ciu10.org/Page/135> to view some of our upcoming Professional Learning events.



CENTRAL INTERMEDIATE UNIT 10 2023-2024

FAST FACTS

CENTRE, CLINTON, & CLEARFIELD COUNTIES

12
SCHOOL
DISTRICTS

SERVING
25,000+
K-12 STUDENTS



CIU

Mission:

CIU 10 provides innovative and engaging educational services, for learners from birth to adult, which support equal access to educational opportunities.

CIU

Vision:

Strategic partnerships promoting equity, access, and innovative educational opportunities for all.

MAIN OFFICE: 200 Shady Lane, Suite 100, Philipsburg, PA

Central Intermediate Unit 10 was created by the Pennsylvania General Assembly in 1971 to serve the educational needs of public and nonpublic schools in Centre, Clinton and Clearfield Counties in the fields of student services, special education, education planning, and technology. CIU 10 has adopted a broader array of services focusing on the unique needs of students, families, and educators in Centre, Clinton and Clearfield Counties and across the Commonwealth.

CIU BY THE NUMBERS

138

STAFF

3

SITES

\$25,000,000

ANNUAL
BUDGET

12

SCHOOL
DISTRICTS

4

CAREER &
TECHNICAL
CENTERS

4

CHARTER SCHOOLS

80

PRIVATE &
NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS

865

SCHOOL AGE
STUDENTS RECEIVING
SERVICES

1,027

EARLY INTERVENTION
STUDENTS

529

CIOLA ONLINE
LEARNING STUDENTS

219

ADULT EDUCATION
STUDENTS SERVED

140

ADULT EDUCATION
STUDENTS ENROLLED

HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Executive Office & Adult Education

Adult Education
 Consortium Pricing
 Guest Teacher Program
 Legislative Roundtable
 Online Learning Association
 Safe Schools Programming

Curriculum and Innovation

Continuing Professional Education Courses
 Curriculum Audits
 Literacy Coaching
 Para Highly Qualified
 Student Competitions
 STEM Lending Library

Itinerant Services

Adapted Physical Education
 Deaf & Hard of Hearing Support
 Interpreters
 Occupational Therapy
 Orientation & Mobility
 Physical Therapy
 Speech and Language Support
 Vision Support

Student Services

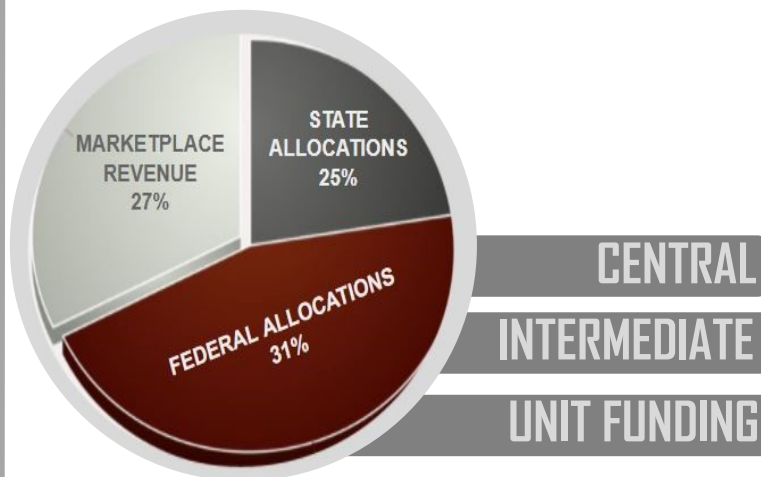
Act 89 / Non Public
 Assistive Technology
 Assistive Technology Loan Program
 Autism Support
 BrainSTEPS
 Equitable Participation Services
 Gifted Support
 Incarcerated Youth/Detention Center
 Inclusive Practices
 MTSS: Behavior & Academic
 Para Highly Qualified
 Paraprofessional Development
 Preschool Early Intervention
 Secondary Transition
 Sign Language Classes
 Special Ed Supervision & Support

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dr. Francine Endler, *Executive Director*
 Mr. Jonathan Rice, *Director of Business Services*
 Ms. Erin Cernuska, *Director of Special Education and NonPublic Student Services*
 Ms. Karen Krise, *Director of Preschool Early Intervention*
 Ms. Jenna Witherite, *Director of Adult Education and Project Development*
 Dr. Dawn Hayes, *Director of Curriculum and Innovation*
 Mr. Lance Bunnell, *Director of Information Technology*
 Ms. Laurie Castagnolo, *Human Resources Manager*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 Dr. Anne Demo
 State College Area School District
 Mr. Norman Parks
 West Branch Area School District
 Dr. Scott Etter, Esq., *Solicitor*
 Haylee Hickman, *Board Secretary*



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