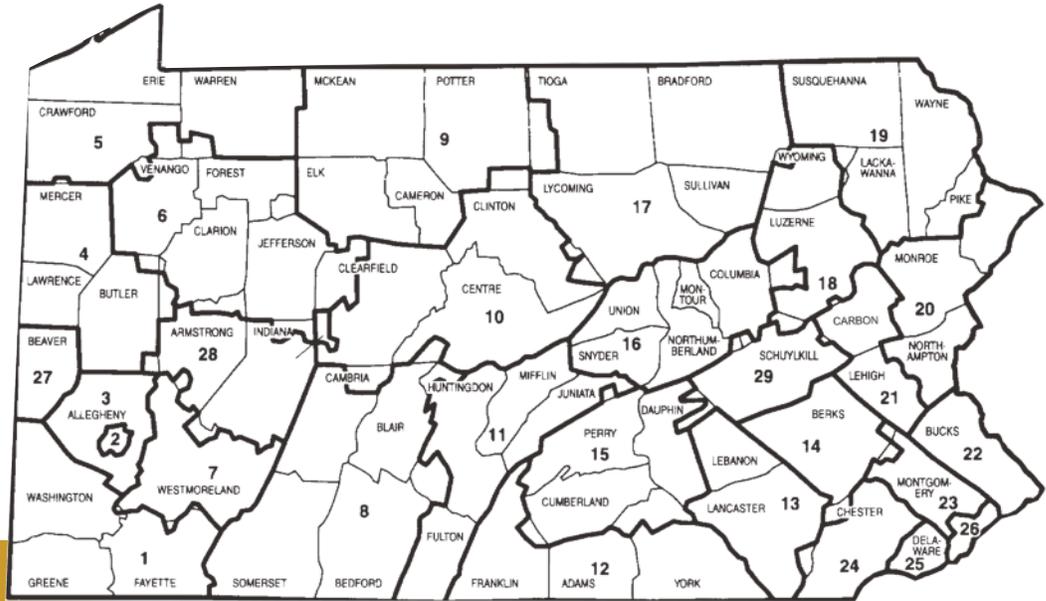




Education Solutions for  
Students, Schools and Communities:  
**A Statewide System of Support for  
“Every Student Succeeds Act”  
Implementation**





## PENNSYLVANIA'S INTERMEDIATE UNITS

Every year, more than 175,000 students and 75,000 educators and adults receive services from one of Pennsylvania's twenty-nine intermediate units (IUs). As public, regional educational service agencies, IUs provide educational, administrative, and technology services to the Commonwealth's 500 school districts, 120 charter schools and 2,400 non-public schools.

Created in 1971 by the Pennsylvania General Assembly, IUs were designed to serve as a liaison between local schools and the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Over the past four decades, these regional educational service agencies have adapted to server a broader array of needs focusing on the unique characteristics of their communities. In doing so, IUs have demonstrated an incredibly entrepreneurial, highly-skilled, and technology-rich approach to educating Pennsylvania's students.

## About PAIU

Pennsylvania's intermediate units are working collaboratively to meet the needs of the state and our schools. The Pennsylvania Association of Intermediate Units (PAIU) works to ensure the strength of individual intermediate units, and to strengthen the system of intermediate units so that students and schools everywhere in Pennsylvania benefit from the capacity and expertise of intermediate units. PAIU works with policymakers in the General Assembly, the Pennsylvania Department of Education and other state agencies to support students, schools and communities throughout the Commonwealth.



## Pennsylvania ESSA Implementation

The recently enacted federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed into law on December 10, 2015, thereby reauthorizing the 50-year-old Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the Nation's national education law and longstanding commitment to equal opportunity for all students.

ESSA creates a fundamental shift in the focus and control of public education systems by empowering states, districts and schools to drive local engagement and decision-making to improve educational outcomes for all students in all schools.

ESSA offers the opportunity for Pennsylvania to develop a state plan that can boldly address some of

our greatest educational challenges: struggling districts and schools, underperforming student subgroups, data and technology infrastructure, community engagement, and more.

A well-conceived state plan alone will not move the needle on these challenges. We need to commit to having a structure in place that has the capacity to support one district, school and community at a time.

Pennsylvania Intermediate Units are prepared to contribute in a major way to the capacity.



### MIDWESTERN IU 4:

#### PREPARING FUTURE ENTREPRENEURS FOR SUCCESS

Today's economy rewards innovation, and Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV is engaged in a multi-faceted partnership to equip students with the skills needed to succeed. The Entrepreneurship Academy blends 21st Century skills with hands-on experiences for local students who learn to infuse their work with critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, adaptability,

entrepreneurship, communication, curiosity, and imagination.

Under the academy, 25 seniors from the seven pilot school districts receive four half-days of instruction a week at the eCenter. Students who complete the program receive credit toward high school graduation and up to nine college credits.

# Pennsylvania's Statewide System of Support

The good news is that Pennsylvania already has a systematic structure for delivering support locally that can be used when the Commonwealth is ready to implement its ESSA state plan.

A collaborative partnership between IUs and PDE, this support has come to be known as the “Statewide System of Support.”

Annually, PDE identifies through Statements of Work priority initiatives for which they need IUs to support school districts and charter schools. The nature of the work ranges from the development and implementation of training and technical assistance, to onsite support for school improvement or professional development activities, communication coordination, engagement of schools and districts in pilot programs, and more.

The PDE initiatives have included focus schools and priority schools (including charter schools) support, school improvement plan development and implementation, new teacher and principal evaluation system training, Pennsylvania academic standards training and technical assistance, safe schools and school climate supports, data quality and reporting training and technical assistance.

Once PDE identifies what work they would like from intermediate units, IUs then collaborate on the development of a plan for how that work will be accomplished.

## Examples of IU efforts in the Statewide System of Support in just one year:

- **22,000** educators trained on Student Learning Objectives, a key component of Pennsylvania's new teacher evaluation system;
- **2,000** Administrators trained on the new Principal evaluation system;
- **3,500** school leaders supported on safe schools initiatives;
- **5,300** school staff trained on data quality systems and reporting;
- **11,500** educators trained on aligning local curriculum with Pennsylvania's academic standards; and,
- **11,000** educators trained on the use of school improvement tools including the use of data to inform instruction of students.

Over the past five years, IUs have worked in nine regions of IUs to consider how they can efficiently and effectively support schools regardless of IU boundaries. IUs are accountable to PDE for all deliverables, and provide detailed quarterly reports on work that has been accomplished.

# STATEWIDE SYSTEM OF SUPPORT

**IUs collectively develop plans** for accomplishing work expectations in PDE SOWs and then submit plan to PDE.

systematic, structured collaboration

**PDE reviews and approves** IUs' plans; coordinates with IU regional leads and IU points of contact.

**IUs deliver training, technical assistance, and other supports** to districts and charter schools across 9 regions.

accountability performance measures approvals

PDE IU deliverables

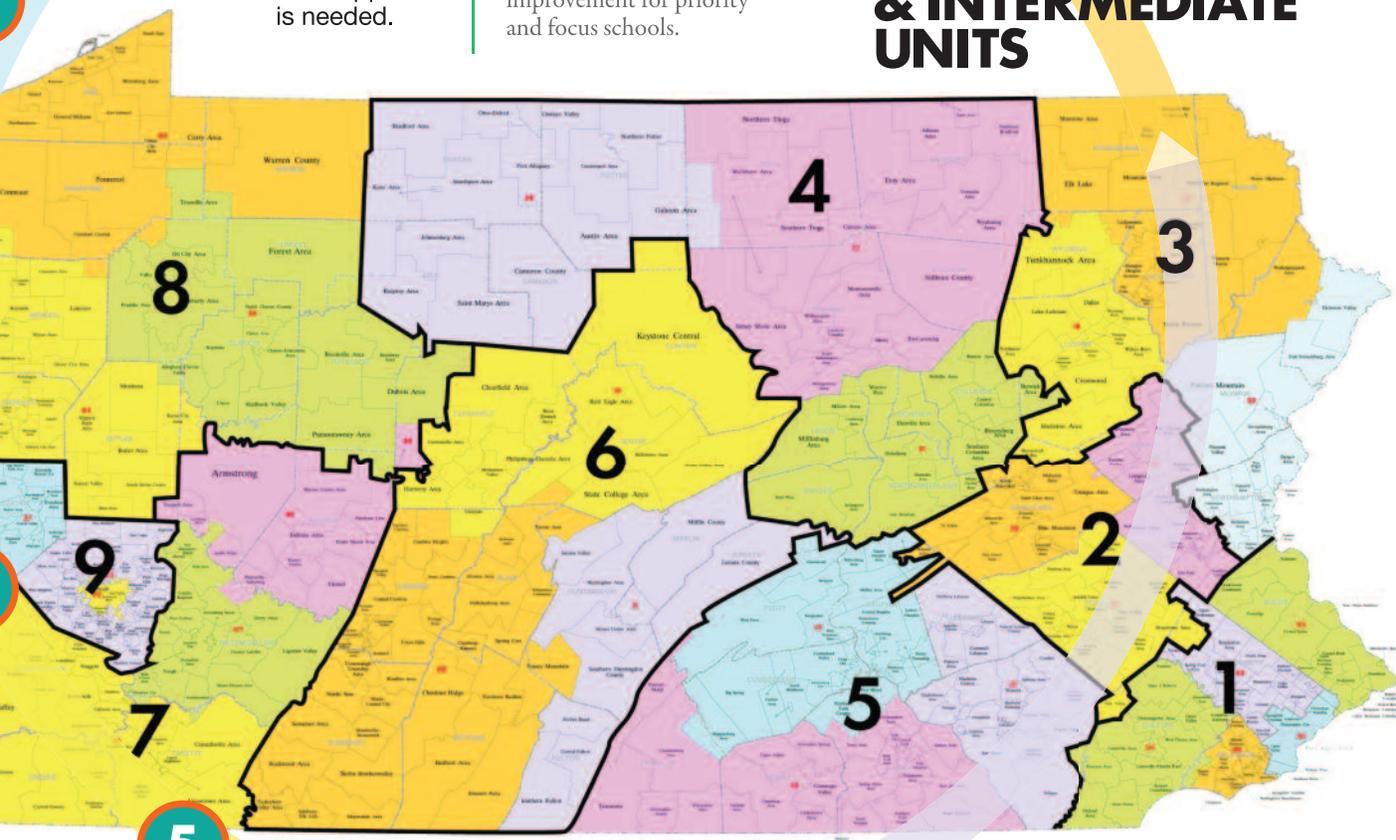
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PDE crafts Statements of Work (SOW) on initiatives for which capacity and support is needed.

Examples of work: Teacher and principal evaluation; data quality; academic standards and assessment; safe schools and school climate; school improvement for priority and focus schools.

## PA'S SCHOOL DISTRICTS & INTERMEDIATE UNITS



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PDE reviews reports on deliverables.

Pennsylvania's 29 Intermediate Units collaborate as nine distinct regions to provide systematic, structured plans to meet PDE's Statements of Work and provide services to school districts and charter schools across the Commonwealth.



### DELAWARE COUNTY IU 25:

#### PARTNERSHIP OPENS DOORS TO CAREERS IN APPLE SERVICING AND SOFTWARE

As technology transforms American life, the power of one brand is evident in the millions of Apple iPads, iPhones, and computers in businesses, homes, and hands. In coming years, demand will soar for people skilled in servicing all those devices and using Apple software.

technology giant delivers. It's a rare opportunity afforded to few secondary students nationwide – the chance to earn a valuable Apple certification before high school graduation.

Delaware County IU 25 is preparing students for those opportunities, by partnering with Apple to offer every certification program the

“We’re always looking for ways to expand whatever opportunities students can take advantage of while they’re still in high school.”

# A State System of Support for Successful ESSA Implementation

While the details of Pennsylvania's ESSA plan are still in development, the major challenges that will be addressed and for which support capacity will be essential are clear. Policymakers who have responsibility for ESSA implementation should to take into account the need for a robust statewide system of support.

Below are the components that are likely to be part of Pennsylvania's state ESSA plan and where intermediate units are prepared with the capacity to support our schools and communities.

## **District/School Improvement**

**Planning:** IUs have significant expertise and experience assisting schools and districts with improvement planning. We have a long history of using PDE's comprehensive planning process and other tools to identify improvement opportunities and develop meaningful strategies.

## **Teacher/Leader Professional**

**Development:** IUs have long played a role in providing teacher and leader professional development. We understand how to deliver effective professional development that is job embedded, sustained and impactful.

## **Design and Implementation of Intervention Strategies for the 5% Lowest Performing Schools:**

IUs have assisted schools and districts in supporting turnaround efforts. We have high-quality leaders and the experience to make a difference in this area.

## **District/School Data Analysis and Use to Drive Improvement:**

We recognize that many of our districts simply do not have the capacity to analyze data. We have the capacity to support this activity in a significant and systematic way.

**Stakeholder Engagement:** We regularly help both PDE and our districts with stakeholder engagement strategies. Because of our presence in every corner of the state we can be an efficient mechanism for gathering input and feedback, and sharing information.





**Special Student Populations – Students with Disabilities, English Language Learners, and Low Performing Students:**

IUs have a long track record of providing specialized services and supports to schools and districts that address the needs of special populations. We already have significant assets in place to do this work.

**Online Assessment:** IUs have already made the investment to provide the Commonwealth with the technology infrastructure to

enhance the experience and security of online assessments. Because of that, Pennsylvania is well-positioned to accomplish what has become a consensus goal: fewer and shorter assessments, but that produce meaningful data our teachers can use to improve instruction and raise student achievement.

**Conclusion**

Pennsylvania’s IUs have a long history of providing valuable and needed support to districts and schools throughout the state.

They are trusted partners, and their reputation and expertise are well-regarded.

As Pennsylvania enters a period where it has more flexibility to chart a course to significantly improving student outcomes, IUs are prepared to engage as strong partners and to leverage their capability to accomplish this important work.



**BERKS COUNTY IU 14: VERSATILE, SCHOOL-FOCUSED SAFETY TRAINING**

Whether they are preparing for emergencies or dealing with everyday hazards, administrators, teachers, and staff require intensive training to assure the ongoing safety of the children in their care. To respond to the full spectrum of school safety needs, the Berks County Intermediate Unit (BCIU), along with SafeSchools®, offers Pennsylvania school districts and IUs an affordable, sustainable solution.

The solution offers mandated training to comply with state laws, including Act 126, Child Abuse Recognition and Reporting Training, and Act 71, Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention Training. It also gives school administrators access to professional development expertise on a wide range of topics that aren’t mandated but are critical to assuring that schools are safe places for students.



# PA

## INTERMEDIATE UNITS

**INTERMEDIATE UNIT 1**  
[www.iu1.org](http://www.iu1.org)

**PITTSBURGH-  
MOUNT OLIVER IU 2**  
[www.pmoiu2.k12.pa.us](http://www.pmoiu2.k12.pa.us)

**ALLEGHENY IU 3**  
[www.aiu3.net](http://www.aiu3.net)

**MIDWESTERN IU 4**  
[www.miu4.org](http://www.miu4.org)

**NORTHWEST TRI-COUNTY IU 5**  
[www.iu5.org](http://www.iu5.org)

**RIVERVIEW IU 6**  
[www.riu6.org](http://www.riu6.org)

**WESTMORELAND IU 7**  
<http://www.wiu.k12.pa.us>

**APPALACHIA IU 8**  
[www.iu08.org](http://www.iu08.org)

**SENECA HIGHLANDS IU 9**  
[www.iu9.org](http://www.iu9.org)  
**CENTRAL IU 10**  
[www.ciu10.org](http://www.ciu10.org)

**TUSCARORA IU 11**  
[www.tiu11.org](http://www.tiu11.org)

**LINCOLN IU 12**  
[www.iu12.org](http://www.iu12.org)

**LANCASTER-  
LEBANON IU 13**  
[www.iu13.org](http://www.iu13.org)

**BERKS COUNTY IU 14**  
[www.berksiu.org](http://www.berksiu.org)

**CAPITAL AREA IU 15**  
[www.caiu.org](http://www.caiu.org)

**CENTRAL  
SUSQUEHANNA IU 16**  
[www.csiu.org](http://www.csiu.org)

**BlaST IU 17**  
[www.iu17.org](http://www.iu17.org)

**LUZERNE IU 18**  
[www.liu18.org](http://www.liu18.org)

**NORTHEASTERN  
EDUCATIONAL IU 19**  
[www.neiu.org](http://www.neiu.org)  
**COLONIAL IU 20**  
[www.ciu20.org](http://www.ciu20.org)

**CARBON-LEHIGH IU 21**  
[www.cliu.org](http://www.cliu.org)

**BUCKS COUNTY IU 22**  
[www.bucksiu.org](http://www.bucksiu.org)

**MONTGOMERY  
COUNTY IU 23**  
[www.mciu.org](http://www.mciu.org)

**CHESTER COUNTY IU 24**  
[www.cciiu.org](http://www.cciiu.org)

**DELAWARE COUNTY IU 25**  
[www.dciiu.org](http://www.dciiu.org)

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
PHILADELPHIA, IU 26**  
[www.philasd.org](http://www.philasd.org)

**BEAVER VALLEY IU 27**  
[www.bviu.org](http://www.bviu.org)

**ARIN IU 28**  
[www.iu28.org](http://www.iu28.org)

**SCHUYLKILL IU 29**  
[www.iu29.org](http://www.iu29.org)

### **PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF INTERMEDIATE UNITS**

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