



## -- SEPTEMBER 2023 EDUCATION BULLETIN --

Welcome to the first 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 training governed by statute and required of all Commonwealth public school districts, and how the LIU OPL can support the implementation of these professional learning opportunities.

### ACT 55 OF 2022

#### SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY TRAINING



**Act 55 of 2022** requires schools to provide two hours of, virtual or in-person, training annually on **school safety and security**. The OPL has a Trauma-Informed training series – each of which meets the requirements of Act 55.

- Trauma 101: An Overview of Trauma-Informed Care
- Trauma 102: Basic Skills of the Trauma-Informed
- Trauma 103: Recognizing Vicarious & Secondary Trauma for Caregivers

In addition, these workshops can be used to satisfy the **Trauma-Informed Approach** requirements of **Act 18 of 2019**. This includes one hour of staff development on trauma-informed approaches as detailed by the LEA's Professional Development Plan cycle.

#### SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS

**Act 55 of 2022** also requires school districts to include **Structured Literacy, Culturally Relevant and Sustainable Education (CR-SE), and Ethics** training within the cycle of their School Professional Development Plans – once every three years. While there are no minimum hour requirements, the LIU OPL has workshops on hand that can be customized to meet your training expectations.

- **Structured Literacy:** Required of all educators that hold an Early Childhood, Elementary/Middle School, Special Education PreK-12, ESL, and Reading Specialist Certification. The LIU OPL has LETRS-trained staff and Literacy Specialists that can design a professional learning program to suit your needs and fulfil this requirement.
- **Trauma 107: Trauma-Informed Cultural Sensitivity:** Culturally Relevant and Sustainable Education (CR-SE) is a topic that requires a great deal of care in its implementation. We employ trainers that have experience in this genre. As part of the Trauma-Informed workshop series, we offer Trauma 107: Trauma-Informed Cultural Sensitivity and its companion workshop, Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain.
- **Ethics:** The LIU OPL also has a three-day Ethics series that can be fragmented based on time allotment or topic. These include:
  - Ethics 101: Ethics and Your Students
  - Ethics 102: Ethics and Your Colleagues
  - Ethics 103: Personal Ethics



### ACT 71 OF 2014

#### YOUTH SUICIDE AWARENESS / PREVENTION

**Act 71 of 2014** requires school districts to provide four hours of **youth suicide awareness and prevention training** to their staff every five years. The Luzerne Intermediate Unit offers Youth Mental Health First Aid and Suicide Prevention



workshops that meet the requirements of this statute. Contact either Cara Devine ([cdevine@liu18.org](mailto:cdevine@liu18.org)) or Susan Kuhl ([skuhl@liu18.org](mailto:skuhl@liu18.org)) to inquire about these programs.

**Question, Persuade, and Refer (QPR)** is a suicide prevention training for participants to be able to recognize the warning signs of suicide and question, persuade, and refer people at risk for suicide for help. This is a 2-hour workshop and will require additional supplementation to meet the time requirement of this mandate.

**Youth Suicide Prevention for Educators** is an 8-part course consists is segmented into 30-minute asynchronous modules. Go to <https://pspalearning.com> and select Suicide Prevention for Educators under courses to use this resource.

### GIFTED / ESL

#### TRAINING BASED ON STUDENT QUALIFICATION

School districts must support educators of students that qualify for **Gifted Education** with the provision of annual training. Reach out to our Gifted Coordinator, Tara Bruza ([tbruza@liu18.org](mailto:tbruza@liu18.org)) to inquire about these training opportunities.

Included in **Chapter 4 of PA Code**, all school districts in which **English language learners** are enrolled must offer annual professional development related to the provision of services to qualifying students. LIU member schools within our Title 3 Consortium are welcome to send applicable staff to periodic English language program workshops held at the LIU. Additionally, you can request any of the following support topics:

- An Introduction to Supporting English Learners
- Differentiating Content for English Learners
- Kid Writing for English Learners

Reach out to our Title III Coordinator, Tara Bruza ([tbruza@liu18.org](mailto:tbruza@liu18.org)) to inquire about these training opportunities.



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