OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

— February 2024 Education Bulletin —

Welcome to the February 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 attendance at this year's PA Educational Technology Expo and Conference (PETE&C) and highlight a few of the sessions attended by the authors of this bulletin including Makerspaces, Artificial Intelligence, the STEELS Standards, and sessions meant to support students with special needs.

Don't forget to subscribe to the OPL Education Bulletin!!!

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DEVELOPING A TOY ADAPTION DAY

MERGING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY W/ STEM

Did you know…? The LIU has a makerspace in our Lighthouse Academy - a school that delivers intensive levels of intervention to challenged students. This space is outfitted with 3-D printers, robots, and design equipment. Doing so allows students with high- to low-incidence needs access to equipment that provides them time to explore and create. Just like the LIU makerspace, the concept of an Inclusive Maker Community is not new. Our neighboring friends at the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit presented on this concept at PETE&C and how they have been offering the students in their community a Toy Adaption Day. We recognize that is a great opportunity for all kids.

Toy Adaption Day is a day where students come together to re-design toys for students with physical disabilities. It is typically done around the holidays where the gifting of toys to students is done. Imagine being given a present that you really love and can only enjoy it by watching someone else use it for you. With this in mind, there is a solution.

Using 3D printers and readily accessible hardware, students can help their disabled peers by constructing switches - like those used in assistive technology - and wire these to the control levers of a toy. Doing so allows children with a physical disability to enjoy a toy on their own. Toy Adaption Day gives kids a chance to flex their skills in coding, circuitry, sewing, and soldering. It also promotes empathy around the user experience of toys by asking kids to collaborate to develop a solution to overcome an obstacle they may have never encountered. When complete, the gifts are repackaged as if the toy was designed specifically to meet the students ability.

Are You Really Aligned???

Throughout PETE&C there were numerous sessions on the new PA standards for Science referred to as the STEELS standards. Most of which were fantastic. There were also a lot of vendor presentations advertising their alignment to the STEELS standards. Here is where an issue may surface.

ALIGNMENT

PA STEELS standards developers did not develop these on a whim or from scratch. The standards related to Life, Physical, and Earth and Space Science were derived from the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS; nextgenscience.org). The remaining standards related to Technology and Engineering (T&E) and Environmental Literacy and Sustainability (ELS) were derived from a multitude of organizations and professional expertise. With this in mind, one should be cautious of materials and resources indicating that they are STEELS-aligned.

For example, a product that is used by a few of the districts in the LIU region is the Mystery Science component of DiscoveryEducation. During a session presented by DiscoveryEducation, a claim was made that they are STEELS aligned. According to a PETE&C presenter, their product is aligned to the NGSS components of the STEELS standards, but they are still developing content to address the T&E and ELS standards. This is not to say that you should not use their products. They do have very good resources that integrates the pedagogy involved our STEELS standards shift. However, users must know that they will need supplemental content to ensure T&E and ELS standards are included in their courses of study.
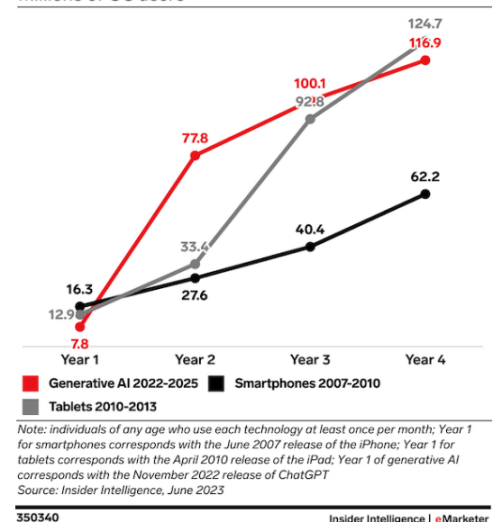
Artificial Intelligence

How to Bring AI to Your School-Responsibly

If your school has had the Artificial Intelligence (AI) conversation, then you are not alone. If it has not, then here are some resources shared at PETE&C that will help you lead this discussion. At PETE&C, a session addressed a responsible way to address concerns and leverage opportunities presented by AI. This was shared in two relative perspectives: (1) Risk versus Opportunity and (2) Present versus Future use. Below is an abbreviated matrix that has some brief hypothetical examples of this concept:

	Risk	Opportunity
Present	How do we stop kids from cheating?	How can we use AI to improve education?
Future	Will AI replace staff?	How can we rethink education in an age of AI?

Generative AI Has a Steeper Initial Adoption Curve Than Other Recent Technologies
millions of US users

Red: Generative AI 2022-2025 — 7.8, 77.8, 100.1, 116.9
Gray (Tablets 2010-2013) — 12.9, 33.4, 92.8, 124.7
Black (Smartphones 2007-2010) — 16.3, 27.6, 40.4, 62.2

■ Generative AI 2022-2025   ■ Smartphones 2007-2010   ■ Tablets 2010-2013

Note: individuals of any age who use each technology at least once per month; Year 1 for smartphones corresponds with the June 2007 release of the iPhone; Year 1 for tablets corresponds with the April 2010 release of the iPad; Year 1 of generative AI corresponds with the November 2022 release of ChatGPT
Source: Insider Intelligence, June 2023

350340   Insider Intelligence | eMarketer

Another, great resource is TeachAI.org (https://www.teachai.org/toolkit) and their toolkit for schools. It includes examples, presentations, graphic organizers to generate systems thinking, and sample policy documents. Of most significant note is TeachAI's seven Principals for AI in Education. You can find these here: https://www.teachai.org/toolkit-principles.

Top Tech Tools Shared at PETE&C

Canva (https://www.canva.com)- Not only is this site great for generating slide decks, flyers, and newsletters, it can also generate custom images and patterns using AI.

Chat GPT (https://chat.openai.com) - No list of tech tools would be complete without Chat GPT. Like it or not, it has some powerful capabilities like language translation, rubric generation, differentiation of text based on length and reading level of a passage, lesson planning, and drafting effective messages (especially in emotionally charged situations).

Flip (https://info.flip.com/en-us.html) - While not a new tool, it is worth mentioning. This application provides educators and students a safe space where kids can create audio and/or video recordings. This is a great way to differentiate - especially in instances where students have difficulty writing.

DataScience4Everyone (https://www.datascience4everyone.org) - This resource shows high-quality, engaging, and relatable datasets that supports students engaging in early research. Here users will find links to a host of grade-level sets of information that can be later manipulated via quantitative research protocols. It also includes resources to support teaching and learning on the topic of data science.

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 Tara Bruza, Instruction Programs Coordinator, and the work she does in the LIU region and beyond.

Credentials: Bachelors of Arts in Psychology with a triple major in Psychology, Early Childhood, and Elementary Education. Masters Degrees that include Administrative Leadership, Reading, and Curriculum and Instruction with a Certification in Teaching English as a Second Language. She is working on a Doctoral Degree in Educational Leadership. Tara is also a PA Certified in Elementary Education, Reading, and School Principal.

Years of Service: Elementary Classroom Teacher (5 years), Title I Reading Specialist (2 years in Clark County, Las Vegas Nevada, and 13 years in Pennsylvania), Educational Training Consultant (2 years), and LIU Instructional Programs Coordinator (2 years).

Other areas of Interest: Tara's main focus areas are English Learner, Gifted, Summer Credit Recover, K'Nex Design Challenge, and Remake Learning.

LIU OPL NETWORK TRAININGS (FEB 2024 - MAR 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.

- Text-Dependent Analysis for K-5: February 6, 2024
- Local SLP Network: February 7, 2024
- Math Fluency in Grades K-5, February 8, 2024
- Reading Specialists Network: February 9, 2024
- School Improvement Leadership Network: February 15, 2025 (contact Dr. Rich Mackrell for registration)
- 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

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

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.

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