

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING



— December 2025 Education Bulletin —

Welcome to the December 2025 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 of the OPL Education Bulletin includes reference to the recently release 2024-2025 school year assessment data on the PA Future Ready Index and some mathematics supports the LIU can provide your educators to support their professional growth.

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OPL Education
Bulletin!!!



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2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR DATA

THE FUTURE READY PA INDEX - LAST YEAR'S RESULTS

The Future Ready PA Index (<https://futurereadypa.org/>) is Pennsylvania's comprehensive reporting portal that provides public data detailing how well our schools are serving students. Instead of relying only on a single test score, this online dashboard provides a clearer, more complete picture of success. It organizes school performance data into three key areas.

- **State Assessment Measures:** This includes proficiency rates on state tests like the PSSA and Keystone Exams, and their growth over the year. Both metrics combined can help schools understand the current and projected trajectory of school performance.
- **On-Track Measures:** This data tracks student progress by looking at crucial early indicators, such as managing chronic absences and ensuring our youngest students are on track in Grade 3 reading and Grade 7 math. This area will also showcase English Language Growth and Attainment if the school has a sufficient population of students relative to this measure.
- **College and Career Measures:** This Index focuses heavily on College and Career Readiness, highlighting graduation rates, access to challenging courses (like AP or Career & Technical Education), and whether students are meeting benchmarks for career planning.



Essentially, the Index is designed to increase transparency and encourage schools to prepare every student for a successful life after high school, whether they choose to pursue postsecondary education via a college or university, serve our country in the military, or enter the workforce. If your LEA needs support in any areas related to Math, ELA, and STEELS implementation, this is the OPL Edition for you...



MATH WORKSHOPS

GRADE BAND WORKSHOPS - NETWORKING AND MORE

Each year, the LIU runs network meetings for mathematics teachers. We typically meet three to four times each year to minimize the time educators are out of their building, but still have sufficient time to build upon their expertise in pedagogy as it relates to mathematics instruction. While all of our network meetings have met once or twice already this school year, we are always looking for new participants. The network grade bands and their face-to-face meeting dates can be found below. Registration can be done via the LIU website (www.liu18.org).

LIU Elementary Math Teacher's Network (Grades K-2)

- Audience: K-2 Teachers of Mathematics. Curriculum Specialists and Elementary Building Principals are welcome as well.
- Dates: 2/5/2026, and additional day will be announced because of a recent snow day cancellation.

LIU Intermediate Math Teacher's Network (Grades 3-5)

- Audience: Teachers of Mathematics in grades 3-5. Curriculum Specialists and Building Principals are welcome as well.
- Dates: 12/8/2025 & 2/12/2026

LIU Middle School Math Teacher's Network (Grades 6-8)

- Audience: Teachers of Mathematics in grades 6-8. Curriculum Specialists and Building Principals are welcome as well.
- Dates: 12/15/2025 & 2/17/2026

The LIU Math Teacher's Network is a space where administrators and mathematics classroom teachers can learn from experienced professionals and share ideas. These networks meet throughout the school year. While we hope you can attend all sessions, it is not required. Learning experiences will focus on developing our students' foundational math skills, including analytical thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration (rmackrell@liu18.org).

OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT MATH TEACHING

Our IU region is part of a multi-IU STEM Ecosystem, called the SHINEonPA STEM Ecosystem, this group is joining forces to offer a two-day math summit for secondary educators. It will be held at the Northampton Community College Pocono Campus in Tannersville, PA. The dates are below. Registration is not available yet.

- February 11, 2026, Presenter Kevin Mauro, PDE Math Content Advisor
- February 26, 2026, Presenter Dr. Paul Riccomini, Penn State University

The LIU can also offer the following workshops on your in-service dates which can be customized for your team. Topics include fluency development, support with open-ended/constructed response question formats, use of AI to support classroom instruction, use of an Instructional Hierarchy to determine appropriate instructional strategies, and use of the Concrete, Representational, Abstract framework to support struggling learners.





ELA WORKSHOPS

TEXT-DEPENDENT ANALYSIS

Equip your students to be critical thinkers and confident writers with workshops on Text-Dependent Analysis (TDA) at any level of implementation. TDA is a powerful instructional strategy that guides students to move past simple summary and engage in deep, analytical reading. Doing so is required for success on the English-Language Arts (ELA) PSSAs and part of becoming an accomplished reader.



TDA workshops will provide educators with practical methods for teaching students how to unpack complex texts, identify a prompt's core analytical task, and select and integrate specific textual evidence to craft well-supported analytical essays. We'll show you how to effectively scaffold the TDA process, ensuring your students can build the crucial reading and writing skills necessary to meet rigorous state standards. Dr. Jessica Jacobs (jjacobs@liu18.org) is our content expert on all things ELA.

STEELS WORKSHOPS

GRADE BAND WORKSHOPS - NETWORKING AND MORE

Are you still in the process of transforming your science curriculum from rote memorization to active, three-dimensional learning? The LIU offers customizable workshops based on the new Pennsylvania Science, Technology & Engineering, Environmental Literacy & Sustainability (STEELS) Standards. Professional learning is crucial for understanding the significant shift in our state's approach to science education.

Trainings can include evaluation of effective lesson design that integrate the three dimensions of STEELS teaching and learning (Science and Engineering Practices, Crosscutting Concepts, and Disciplinary Core Ideas). Additional possible training opportunities can include framing instruction around real-world phenomena, empowering students to think and act like scientists and engineers as they investigate, design solutions, and build deep understanding across the fields of science, technology, engineering, environmental literacy, and sustainability. Dr. Rich Mackrell (rmackrell@liu18.org) is our STEELS lead.



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