

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING



— January 2026 Education Bulletin —

Welcome to the January 2026 edition of the **Luzerne Intermediate Unit (LIU) Office of Professional Learning's (OPL)** monthly education bulletin. This special edition of the OPL Education Bulletin will focus on Remake Learning Days (RLD). From May 1st to May 23rd, RLD asks centers of learning to facilitate educational events for their community. Events can include student exploration of interactive learning experiences like building robots, inventing with 3D printers, experiment like a scientist, explore student voice, create their own art or music, engage in career-ready skills, and much more.



REMAKE LEARNING DAYS

LEARNING THEMES

Each RLD event is aligned to a learning theme to better inform participants of the general goal of each planned community event. There are five learning themes for families plus an additional theme specific to professional development for educators.



ARTS is based on hands-on learning and expression through multiple forms: theatre, dance, visual art, music, photography, and more!



MAKER "Making" is about taking things apart and putting it back together. Tinker, build, and create with materials. Try a 3D printer, take apart a toy to see what's inside and then rebuild it, or create a marshmallow tower!



OUTDOOR LEARNING is about experiencing and learning about the natural world. How can we think about the environment, sustainability, and more by exploring our very own backyards?



SCIENCE is all about experimentation! Kids and adults can explore chemistry, biology, geography and more. How does our world work? What can we test and explore in the world around us?



TECHNOLOGY gives kids the chance to explore their digital world. Want to try coding? Build robots? Learn circuitry? Learn about Artificial Intelligence? Look for technology events that help you discover new things.



YOUTH VOICE is about youth leadership and amplifying their voice. Give our children the opportunity to express themselves multiple ways: through audio, video, art, music, and more.

RLD EVENTS

HOW CAN SCHOOLS HELP?

Remake Learning Days is comprised of regions that encompass the entirety of Pennsylvania. The Luzerne Intermediate Unit is the regional lead of the Northeast PA Remake Learning region, and it includes the Carbon Lehigh, Central Susquehanna, Colonial, Luzerne, Northeastern, and Schuylkill Intermediate Units. Combined, these regions hosted over 100 events last school year. We hope to accomplish the same and cannot do so without the help of our local schools. Schools can help by becoming a Remake Learning Event Host and/or raising awareness of events happening in their community.

RLD EVENTS

BECOMING AN EVENT HOST

One way Schools can participate in Remake Learning is by becoming an Event Host. But, what is an Event Host? Event hosts facilitate an educational experience where students engage in events that are based on one or more of the Remake Learning themes and occur during the statewide festival dates: between May 1 - May 23, 2026.

Are you interested in becoming an event host for Remake Learning Days? It's easy! Go to:

<https://remakelearningdays.org/event-hosts/>, select "Manage or Submit Events", and complete the four sections of prompts that will guide the development of your event's page. Once published, Remake Learning will advertise your event. Review this page prior to submitting to learn more about what makes a great event! It is recommended that you submit your event by February 19, 2026, so it may be eligible for event funding. Once your event is submitted and approved, it is eligible for [Event Host Awards](#) (mini-grants) in **\$150, \$250, \$350, and \$500** dollar amounts. While events can be submitted at any time, only events submitted prior to **February 13, 2026** are eligible for this funding. The event host award application will close on February 13, 2026.



RLD EVENTS

CAREER READY PA BACKPACK CHALLENGE

Remake Learning Days are hands-on events integrating career readiness and employability skills by exposing our students to different career paths. **Schools hosting these experiences from May 1 to May 23 qualify for the Career Ready PA Backpack Challenge.** After students attend your event, learners from K-11 can earn a career readiness artifact to be included in their summative career portfolio. Here's how it works:

- 1) Your school designs and submits an event on the Remake Learning Days website that describes how students will experience career readiness and employability skills.
- 2) Your school completes a brief survey indicating their inclusion in the Career Ready Backpack Challenge.



- 3) Your students attend your event and complete a brief survey reflecting on the employability skills that were aligned to the experience.

Schools with over 100 student artifact surveys completed will be awarded a banner for meeting the “Backpack Challenge.”

Students can also earn badges for attending Career Ready-approved events in your community. In order for them to do so, complete the following steps to so that your school can join the Career Ready PA Backpack Challenge!

- **Step 1:** Schools (One contact per school) register for the [Career Ready PA Backpack Challenge here](#). Schools should register for the Backpack Challenge as soon as possible and before May 2026.
- **Step 2:** Explore Remake Learning Days [events that are Career Ready PA approved](#) for the Backpack Challenge. Events will be posted to the RLD website in March 2026.
- **Step 3:** Attend the event(s) during Remake Learning Days in PA, between May 1-23, 2026. Don’t forget Step 4!
- **Step 4:** Students complete a brief survey to earn their badge for their career portfolio from the PA Department of Education. Again, schools who earn 100 badges or more are awarded a Career Ready PA banner. The artifact survey must be submitted after attending a career ready-approved event and no later than May 26, 2026. All event hosts will receive the survey via email prior to the start of the festival.
- **Step 5:** Share with us what you learned by using the hashtags #RemakeDays #CareerReadyPA #remakedaysNEPA

RLD EVENTS

WHY DO STUDENTS NEED A DIGITAL ARTIFACT?

ALL PA Commonwealth public school students from K-11 must maintain a career portfolio of artifacts that serve as evidence of meaningful career readiness experiences. This is a **federal requirement reported in the Future Ready PA Index**—a collection of publicly available school progress measures related to school and student success, including the Career Standards measure.

What are some examples of the Career Readiness Backpack Challenges in schools?

- ⇒ **STEM Fair** – Host a STEM Fair where school staff facilitate a series of stations, each focused on a specific task.
- ⇒ **Content Area Exploration** – Use your in-house staff expertise to raise awareness around a specific or multiple content areas.
- ⇒ **Business Pitch Competition** – Students create and present a business idea to a panel of judges.
- ⇒ **Escape Room Challenge** – Teams solve workplace-related puzzles to build problem-solving skills.
- ⇒ **Community Service Initiative** – Teams plan and execute a volunteer project that benefits their community.
- ⇒ **Coding Challenge** – Students create a simple app, website, or game.
- ⇒ **Budgeting & Personal Finance Simulation** – Students create a mock budget for different life scenarios.
- ⇒ **Stock Market Game** – Students participate in a simulated stock market investment challenge.
- ⇒ **Career Fair Passport** – Students attend a career fair and complete guided activities such as networking with professionals.

PARENT/TEACHER AND STUDENT AMBASSADORS

The **Remake Learning Days Ambassador Program** is an opportunity for parents/teachers and youth to increase awareness, enthusiasm, and attendance during Remake Learning Days (RLD). We are looking for a total of over 200 “Youth” and “Parent/Teacher” Ambassadors for the 2026 RLD Across PA festivals. Ambassadors are eligible for a honorarium of up to **\$250**. No prior experience is necessary! **Apply by February 13, 2026**, to be considered as a RLD Ambassador.

What do you do as an Ambassador? Whether you are a “Youth” or “Parent/Teacher” Ambassador, here is what you’ll be doing as an advocate for Remake Learning Days.

- ⇒ **Experience RLD:** Plan to attend two (2) Remake Learning Days events between May 1-23, 2026 in your PA region. Beginning in March, you’ll be able to search the RLD events calendar for events by date, learning theme, location and age group.
- ⇒ **Share about Your Events:** Prior to attending your events, share about the events you’ve chosen to attend and why you’re excited about these RLD events. You can share through your social media channels or however you communicate with your network.
- ⇒ **Give Feedback:** After attending the two events, share your feedback through an event review and post on your social media channels or however you communicate with your network.

All students in grades 9 – 12 who reside in Pennsylvania are welcome to apply. Simply visit the page below. The application deadline is Friday, February 13, 2026, and selected Youth Ambassadors will be notified by early March. All caring adults who reside in Pennsylvania are welcome to apply for the parent/teacher program noted below.

Below are some useful links for Schools and potential Ambassadors.



Event Host
Submission



Host Award
Application



Career Ready PA
Backpack
Participation



Student & Parent/
Teacher Ambassador
Application

If you have any questions regarding any of the content in this bulletin, please reach out to Dr. Rich Mackrell.



Dr. Rich Mackrell
rmackrell@liu18.org
(570)991-1121

Dr. Jessica Jacobs
jjacobs@liu18.org
(570)718-4631

Main Office 368 Tioga Ave, Kingston, PA 18704

If you wish to have further monthly bulletins delivered to your inbox via email...

Subscribe