

BOARD 2 BOARD

October 2016

NEWS FROM THE ALLEGHENY INTERMEDIATE UNIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Message from the Executive Director

Congratulations to school districts throughout Allegheny County for making strong gains on the 2016 school-level PSSA exams. As a county, 37 of 42 AIU-member school districts experienced double-digit gains on one or more tests. As indicated in the chart below, students attending AIU-member school districts on average scored higher than their peers across the state in all tested grades and in all tested content areas. Click [here](#) and [here](#) to read recent media articles about the results.

Congratulations to teachers and administrators throughout Allegheny County on focusing on the proper alignment of curriculum and teaching to the standards and for promoting training and professional development. We look forward to partnering with schools and school districts throughout the county as we continue to learn from each other.

We, the members of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Board of Directors, are proud to serve as representatives of the 42 boards in our Allegheny County school districts. By way of this correspondence, we hope to keep you better informed of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's programs and services.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Message from the Executive Director
- Legislative Roundup
- Early Childhood, Family & Community Services
- Special Education and Pupil Services
- Information Technology • Teaching and Learning

Grade Level	PSSA State Math 2016	AIU PSSA Math 2016	PSSA State English Language Arts	AIU PSSA English Language Arts	PSSA State Science	AIU PSSA Science
3	54.4	68	60.9	73.7		
4	46.6	58.3	58.7	70.2	76.2	83.9
5	44.4	55.1	61.5	73		
6	41.1	47.8	61.7	66.9		
7	37	41.3	61.5	66.1		
8	31.2	35.1	58.4	64.2	57.7	61.3

Legislative Roundup



PENSION REFORM FOCUS OF REMAINING SESSION DAYS

The General Assembly will wrap up its two-year session on Wednesday, October 26. Before it adjourns, the legislature is focused on finalizing pension reform for future school employees. The changes expected will provide new employees with three options. These include two similar hybrid defined benefit and defined contribution plans and an option to move all investments into a defined contribution plan. The plans will not produce any immediate savings to school districts and the long-term savings are currently unknown. At press time, the pension reform plan included making lump sum withdrawals revenue neutral for pre-ACT 120 employees. For Act 120 employees, the plan would add a lump sum option.



NEWS FROM

ECFCS Early Childhood, Family & Community Services

THE IMPACT OF TRAUMA - PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Recently, Head Start teaching staff participated in the Family Links professional development session on the impact of trauma. This session helped staff build upon current knowledge and better understand how stress and trauma impact our lives and the lives of those with whom we work. The session was well received and a focus on understanding trauma will continue throughout the school year.

HEAD START POLICY COUNCIL

The new Head Start/Early Head Start Policy Council was seated in September following a training to help all new parent representatives better understand their role in Head Start governance. This training was well organized with a comprehensive binder of relevant regulations and program information. A short video of another Head Start policy council in action helped to frame what the meeting looks like for parents who hold an office and who are representative participants. Parents and staff worked together during the training and built relationships for future meetings.

NEWS FROM

Information Technology



KUDOS!

Congratulations to CTO Jon Amelio for being selected by Smart Business Magazine as a 2016 Pittsburgh Smart 50 Award winner. Presented by Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., the Smart 50 Awards recognize the top executives

of the smartest 50 companies in the Pittsburgh region for their ability to effectively build and lead savvy organizations. Congratulations, Jon!

NEWS FROM

Special Education and Pupil Services



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Mary Crummie, an elementary life skills teacher at the AIU's Sunrise School in Monroeville, who recently received the Paul Ross Award for Excellence in Education and Community Engagement from the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. A North Side resident, Ms. Crummie has been a volunteer with the orchestra for more than 20 years and is an active member of both the Accessibility Committee and the Education Committee. Congratulations, Mary!

BASEBALL DAY AT PATHFINDER SCHOOL

On September 30, Pathfinder School hosted the South Park Girls' Softball Team for Baseball Day. Students were broken up into groups to experience the different aspects of baseball including sliding, hitting, catching, running the bases and wearing the equipment. A great time was had by all.



MON VALLEY NEWS

- On October 28, the AIU's Mon Valley School will host a soccer clinic in partnership with the West Mifflin Varsity Soccer Team. Members of the team will practice drills and skills with students and will introduce strategies and plays.
- Congratulations to Dr. Richard Dowell, Victoria Campbell and Kim Robinson who were selected to present at the 2017 [CEC national convention](#) in Boston. The presentation will focus on the school's partnerships with OVR and how students are gaining access to more opportunities for career exploration.

NEWS FROM

Teaching and Learning

DISABILITY MENTORING DAY

The AIU is pleased to have participated in Disability Mentoring Day (DMD), a national event on October 19 to highlight National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Students from the AIU's Mon Valley and Sunrise schools were excited to be part of the program and gain new skills at Dean Honda in Pleasant Hills and Giant Eagle, respectively. Together with Bender Consulting Services, Inc. the AIU coordinated the effort in Allegheny County by matching business with local schools and school districts. A total of 23 school districts in Allegheny County were part of the effort.

CALCUSOLVE

More than 400 high school students competed in CalcuSolve, a math tournament sponsored by the II-VI Foundation, at Duquesne University on October 11 and 12. Students completed two team math problems and seven individual questions. Prizes were awarded to the top students in both the individual and team categories. The winners were from North Allegheny, Upper St. Clair, Montour and Gateway school districts.

STEAM SHOWCASE

The AIU's Center for Creativity held its third annual STEAM Showcase Open House on September 27, at the IBEW Circuit Center & Ballroom, 5 Hot Metal Street. Students and teachers from 28 school districts demonstrated how they are transforming education using STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) grants. Each school district represented was a winner of a \$20,000 STEAM grant, made possible by the Chevron, the Claude Worthington Benedum and the Grable foundations. Since 2009, the foundations and the AIU have awarded more than \$3 million in STEAM grants to school districts in southwestern Pennsylvania.

MAKER FAIRE

The AIU was one of more than 250 exhibitors featured in Maker Faire, which took place in Pittsburgh's North Side the weekend of October 14-16. Maker Faire is a community-based learning event that showcases inventions, creativity and resourcefulness, providing a platform for people to show what they are making and share what they are learning. On October 14th, over 1,500 students and educators attended as part of the Remake Learning Education Friday. At the TransformED booth, attendees constructed music from fruits and vegetables, using the Makey Makey as a computer input into Apple's GarageBand.

AIU Board of Directors

Thomas Kelly, President, North Hills School District
Roger Tachor, Vice President, Clairton City School District
Debbie Beale, Secretary, Highlands School District
David Schaap, Treasurer, Brentwood Borough School District
Leonard Fornella, South Fayette School District
Peter Lyons, Pine-Richland School District
Gerri McCullough, East Allegheny School District
Daniel O'Keefe, Northgate School District
Larry Pollick, Allegheny Valley School District
Connie Ruhl, Bethel Park School District
Robert Shages, Hampton Township School District
Dr. Linda B. Hippert, AIU Executive Director
William C. Andrews, AIU Solicitor



475 East Waterfront Drive • Homestead, PA 15120
412-394-5700 • www.aiu3.net

[Click to view this and past issues online](#)

To unsubscribe from our mailing list, please [click here](#).