



SERVICES GUIDE

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Serving Every Learner



2026 – 2027 SERVICES GUIDE

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All services are rendered in accordance with the 2026-2027 Allegheny Intermediate Unit Comprehensive Services Agreement.



2026-2027 SERVICES AT A GLANCE

The 99 services listed on this page are **FREE** to member school districts.

- Accelerated Learning Support
- Act 158 (PA Graduation Requirements)
- AI Tools in K-12
- Allegheny County Jail Workforce Development & GED Preparation Program
- Assistive Technology Supports*
- Audiology*
- Autism Support
- BrainSTEPS Professional Development Services
- Business Administrator Role-Alike Meetings
- C3 Framework
- Career Ready PA
- Classroom Diagnostic Tools (CDT/Firefly)
- Comprehensive Planning
- Crisis Response Team
- Cultural Impact
 - Programming
 - Support Services & Consultation
 - Regional Diversity Resource Groups
- Curriculum Coordinator Role-Alike Meetings
- Deaf-Blind Resource Team
- Diagnostic Consultation (Speech/Language)*
- Early Head Start
- Education for Children & Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH)
- Educational Stability for Foster Care Youth
- Educator Evaluation
- Email Security Compliance Support
- English Language Arts Symposium
- Esports Facilitators
- Family Literacy Program
- Family Support Centers
- Fatherhood Initiatives
- Future Ready PA Index
- General IDEA Supports
- Gifted Education
- Grant Network
- Group Term Life Insurance Consortium*
- Head Start
- Hi5! Kindergarten Transition
- Human Resources Director Role-Alike Meetings
- IDEA Subrecipient Monitoring
- Immigrant Services & Connections (ISAC)
- Instructional Coaches' Network
- Intensive Interagency Coordination
- Joint Purchasing Program
- Keystone Exams in Literature
- Least Restrictive Environment/Inclusive Practices
- Legislative Policy & Advocacy
- Library Coordinators & Media Specialist Network
- Life Skills/Supporting Students with Complex Needs
- Literacy & Writing Supports
- Local Task Force (LTF3.org)*
- Managed DNS & Registrar Services*
- Management Consultation
- Mathematics Supports
- Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)/School-Wide Positive Behavior Interventions & Support (PBIS)
- New Special Education Liaison Role-Alike Meetings
- Non-Public Schools Program*
- Open Doors Podcast
- PA Core Standards for English Language Arts (ELA)
- PA Value-Added Assessment System (PVAAS)
- Penn Hills After-School Program
- Positive Behavior Supports
- Pre-K Counts
- Preschool Early Intervention (PEI) Services*
- Principal Role-Alike Meetings (Act 45)
- Protective DNS Implementation Support
- Public Relations Role-Alike Meetings
- Reading Achievement Center (RAC) Resource Room
- Reading Specialists' Network
- Resilience for Life Program
- Safety & Security Initiatives
 - Emergency Operations Plan Development
 - Incident Management Classes
 - Mandated Threat Assessment Team Training & Refresher Training
 - Role-Alike Meetings & Listserve
 - School Safety & Security Site Assessments
 - School Resource Officer Training
 - Safety & Security Training & Exercise Development
- School Assessment Data Analysis
- School Counselor Role-Alike Meetings
- School Improvement Facilitation
- Secondary Transition Services
- Social Studies Network
- Special Education Data Collection & Reporting System (PennData)
- Special Education Liaison Role-Alike Meetings
- Standards Aligned System (SAS) Training
- STEAM Lending Library
- STEAM Teacher & Coordinator Role-Alike Meetings
- Structured Literacy*
- Superintendent Commission
- Superintendents' Advisory Council (Act 45)
- SuperSite
- Supervision & Consultation (OT/PT)*
- Teen Parenting Program - Education Leading to Employment & Career Training (Project ELECT)
- Technology Coordinator Role-Alike Meetings
- Title III Consortium Services & Technical Training Sessions* (AIU Served Districts)
- transformED Change Studio
- transformED Educator Workshops
- Trauma Education & Response Team (TEAR)
- Virtual Learning Liaison Role-Alike Meetings
- Workforce Development Program & GED Preparation

Role-Alikes/Networks Roundup:

- Business Administrators
- Curriculum Coordinators
- Esports Facilitators
- Human Resources Directors
- Library Coordinators & Media Specialist Network
- Media Coordinators
- New Special Education Liaison
- Principals (Act 45)
- Public Relations Coordinators
- School Safety
- School Counselors
- Special Education Liaisons
- STEAM Teachers & Coordinators
- Technology Coordinators
- Virtual Learning Liaisons

Administrative Services

Every day, school district operations become more complex. Laws and mandates constantly change and school leaders need new solutions for today's business challenges. The AIU offers a variety of services to support school administrators.

EVALUATION, GRANTS & DATA

Grant Development Workshop

Contact: Sheila Bell, 412-394-5821 • sheila.bell@aiu3.net

Do you have a great program idea but are not sure how to fund it? Did you ever wonder what was involved in developing and submitting a grant proposal? If you answered yes to these questions, this workshop is for you! Offered by the AIU's Evaluation, Grants and Data team, this one-day interactive training will guide you through the process of grant development — from sourcing opportunities and ensuring that your concept is a good fit to justifying your program's need and learning how to write fundable applications. Bring grant opportunities and your ideas for practice and brainstorming with peers. Lunch is provided.

Grant Network

Contact: Sheila Bell, 412-394-5821 • sheila.bell@aiu3.net

Join the AIU Grant Network to receive free email notices of potential local, state, and national grant opportunities. The AIU's Grant Network provides email notices of grant opportunities. To join, register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GrantNetwork>.

Grant Writing & Management Services

Contact: Sheila Bell, 412-394-5821 • sheila.bell@aiu3.net

The AIU Evaluation, Grants and Data (EGD) team provides support and capacity building to organizations during the grant management cycle. Services include concept development and logic modeling; grant writing and proofreading support; needs assessment compilation; project evaluation plan development; and post-grant data collection, analysis, and reporting. Services and supports are tailored to the individual needs of each organization.

Program Evaluation Services

Contact: Sheila Bell, 412-394-5821 • sheila.bell@aiu3.net

The AIU Evaluation, Grants and Data (EGD) team provides industry-leading program evaluation services and supports to help your organization achieve its goals. Taking a customer service approach, EGD helps its clients measure the impact of what they do so they can make informed decisions about their programs. Individualized evaluation plans may include developing logic models and theories of change, creating surveys and other data collection tools, conducting focus groups, analyzing data, and producing customized data reports and infographics that meet client and stakeholder needs.

EXECUTIVE SUPPORT

Management Consultation

Contact: Robert Scherrer, Ed.D., 412-394-5979 • robert.scherrer@aiu3.net

The AIU assists districts in identifying and coordinating resources and services to provide support in school management, planning, and administration.

Superintendent Commission

Contact: Robert Scherrer, Ed.D., 412-394-5979 • robert.scherrer@aiu3.net

The AIU assists with scheduling superintendents and assistant superintendents for the oath of office.

Superintendents' Advisory Council

Contact: Robert Scherrer, Ed.D., 412-394-5979 • robert.scherrer@aiu3.net

The AIU hosts monthly meetings with superintendents on current federal, state, and local issues that impact school districts. The executive director provides updates from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and other governmental entities as it relates to public education based upon attendance at monthly meetings with PDE officials. In addition, AIU leadership and superintendents meet in teams based on specific categories designed to address regional education issues.

SuperSite

Contact: Robert Scherrer, Ed.D., 412-394-5979 • robert.scherrer@aiu3.net

The AIU hosts SuperSite, a tool designed specifically for superintendents. It is a source of current and relevant information related to human resources, finance, legislative advocacy, emergency management, and other data made available upon request.

FINANCE & BUSINESS OPERATIONS

Act 1 Mailing Coordination

Contact: Kim Enz, 412-394-5784 • kimberly.enz@aiu3.net

The Taxpayer Relief Act, known as Act 1, was passed in 2006 to provide property tax relief to qualifying resident homeowners. All school districts must participate; the AIU coordinates the mailing to thousands of homes in Allegheny County.

Business Administrator Role-Alike Meetings

Contact: Joseph Lucarelli, 412-394-5813 • joseph.lucarelli@aiu3.net

The AIU conducts quarterly role-alike meetings for Allegheny County school district business administrators. The free sessions give school business leaders the opportunity to come together and discuss topics that impact district operations. The AIU's staff provides timely updates on local, state, and federal issues that affect budgets and offers information that saves time and money.

IDEA Subrecipient Monitoring

Contact: Zachary DelliGatti, 412-394-5711 • zachary.delligatti@aiu3.net

The AIU is the Local Education Agency (LEA) for IDEA Part B, Section 611 Funds. The purpose of the program is to pass through IDEA funds to districts for their school-based special education programs. As the pass-through entity for federal IDEA funds, the AIU is required to monitor the activities of sub-recipients to ensure that federal awards are used for authorized purposes in compliance with laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts or grant agreements. In addition, monitoring is also required to ensure that performance goals are achieved.

Joint Purchasing Program

Contact: Kim Enz, 412-394-5784 • kimberly.enz@aiu3.net

The Joint Purchasing Program facilitates the purchase of energy, fuel, and paper products at the lowest prices. The program assists participants by preparing specifications, advertising, analyzing bids, conducting bid openings, evaluating samples, recommending bid awards, and notifying bidders. Every year, the Joint Purchasing Program saves school districts millions of dollars in the purchase of electricity, natural gas, gasoline, and diesel fuel.

School-Based ACCESS Program

Contact: Kara Bonaroti, 412-394-4527 • kara.bonaroti@aiu3.net

The School-Based ACCESS Program allows school districts to earn partial reimbursement for health-related services provided to students who are eligible for medical assistance. The AIU's business staff helps school districts complete the reimbursement process by ensuring compliance and the proper submission of claim documentation. Although there are many variables that determine reimbursement, districts may be able to realize significant savings.

Shared Administrative Services

Contact: Joseph Lucarelli, 412-394-5813 • joseph.lucarelli@aiu3.net

The AIU offers shared services for common school district administrative functions that enables school districts to gain efficiencies by strategically centralizing, consolidating, and standardizing non-classroom functions. These services include payroll processing, benefit processing, core human capital management, accounts payable, purchasing, and general ledger. Please contact us for more details.

Special Education Transportation Services

Contact: Zachary DelliGatti, 412-394-5711 • zachary.delligatti@aiu3.net

The AIU can facilitate transportation services for children with special needs. The AIU contracts with school bus transportation companies to provide the service. Funding comes directly from a district's state subsidy. No invoicing occurs.

HUMAN RESOURCES

BridgeUP Teach

Contact: Avryle Schmitt, 412-394-5733 • avryle.schmitt@aiu3.net

In partnership with Point Park University and BloomBoard, the AIU helps paraprofessionals grow into certificated special education teachers. Designed just for school districts, these programs help working professionals complete their coursework while on the job. Paraeducators and other support staff receive the instruction, coaching, and classroom experience they need to grow into certificated teachers. Paraeducators must possess an associate's degree or 60 college credits.

District-Based Human Resources Services

Contact: Erin Koebel, 412-394-5957 • erin.koebel@aiu3.net

The AIU has a comprehensive group of experts within the human resources field who can support any school district with complex human resources functions. The services are customizable and scalable to fit the needs of any school district. In addition, the services can be offered on an annual, quarterly, or weekly basis.

Group Term Life Insurance Consortium

Contact: Janet Breiding, 412-394-5848 • janet.breiding@aiu3.net

The Group Term Life Insurance Consortium enables members to achieve the benefits of group purchasing of term life insurance. Membership is available to all Allegheny County public school districts and career and technical schools.

Human Resources Audits

Contact: Erin Koebel, 412-394-5957 • erin.koebel@aiu3.net

The AIU's Human Resources Audit Committee uses a list of mandated regulations and best practices to audit the practices and procedures of school district human resources departments. The audit produces a roadmap to compliance with actionable steps and best practice recommendations.

Human Resources Director Role-Alike Meetings

Contact: Erin Koebel, 412-394-5957 • erin.koebel@aiu3.net

The AIU holds quarterly human resource director role-alike meetings for district administrators. Information on relevant topics impacting human resources in schools is presented and discussed.

Job Description Development & Review

Contact: Erin Koebel, 412-394-5957 • erin.koebel@aiu3.net

Job descriptions need to be written and framed to ensure position requirements accurately articulate expectations of a job seeker or incumbent yet comply with employment laws. Our job description committee will analyze and review your organization's current job descriptions and generate an action plan to address any identified issues. Job descriptions will be revised where needed and reviewed by the committee for consistency and accuracy.

PAeducator.net

Contact: Avryle Schmitt, 412-394-5733 • avryle.schmitt@aiu3.net

Website: paeducator.net

PAeducator.net is an online clearinghouse for teachers and administrators interested in working in Pennsylvania. This service is free to applicants and simplifies the application process for participating school districts and other educational entities. Our applicant profiles contain all documents required to be hired within a public school entity in Pennsylvania. PAeducator.net simplifies the recruiting and hiring process, allowing employers to post positions and conduct focused searches.

SmartSTART/Guest Substitute Teacher Training

Contact: Erin Koebel, 412-394-5957 • erin.koebel@aiu3.net

The SmartSTART/Guest Substitute Teacher Training program bolsters school districts' ability to recruit and train day-to-day guest substitute teachers for grades K-12. The AIU partners with the Substitute Teaching Institute at Utah State University and provides initial training/orientation to the guest teacher candidate. Each candidate must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university to be eligible for an emergency permit upon completion of the training.

Title IX Investigation Services

Contact: Erin Koebel, 412-394-5957 • erin.koebel@aiu3.net

The AIU's Human Resources team has certified Title IX investigators who can help districts to conduct investigations required by Title IX.

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

Legislative Policy & Advocacy

Contact: Joseph Shaulis, Esq., 412-394-4521 • joseph.shaulis@aiu3.net

The Public School Code authorizes intermediate units to serve as a liaison between member school districts and the state and federal governments. Regular legislative and legal updates are provided to district superintendents and other school administrators. The AIU serves as an informational resource for policymakers and connects them with educational experts. The Legislative Policy & Advocacy team promotes opportunities for engagement with legislators, including the annual Allegheny County Legislative Forum on Education.

MARKETING & STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION SERVICES

Full Service Support

Contact: Sarah McCluan, 412-394-3472 • sarah.mccluan@aiu3.net

Districts are assigned a dedicated communication team to meet their needs year-round. Services vary depending on district need and include a communication specialist lead, graphic designer, supervisor, and other supports.

Public Relations Role-Alike Meetings

Contact: Sarah McCluan, 412-394-3472 • sarah.mccluan@aiu3.net

Monthly role-alike meetings are held for school public relations officers to discuss timely communications-related issues.

Special Projects

Contact: Sarah McCluan, 412-394-3472 • sarah.mccluan@aiu3.net

School districts enlist the AIU to carry out a variety of one-off special projects, including video production, recruitment campaigns, and communication audits.

Supplementary Support

Contact: Sarah McCluan, 412-394-3472 • sarah.mccluan@aiu3.net

Delegate one or more specific responsibilities to a dedicated communication specialist — freeing up time for internal staff to address more urgent matters. Our staff can also complement your district's in-house services with specialized expertise, such as graphic design or video production.

SAFETY & SECURITY

Emergency Operations Plan Development

Contact: Aaron Skrbín, Ed.D., 412-394-5933 • aaron.skrbin@aiu3.net

Pennsylvania schools are required by law to have an emergency operations plan. By request, the AIU guides administrators in building a comprehensive emergency operations plan that takes a multi-hazard approach.

Incident Management Classes

Contact: Aaron Skrbín, Ed.D., 412-394-5933 • aaron.skrbin@aiu3.net

In partnership with the Allegheny County Office of Emergency Services and Readiness & Emergency Management for Schools Technical Assistance (REMS TA) Center, the AIU offers a variety of school safety related training in virtual and in-person formats.

Mandated Threat Assessment Team Training & Refresher Training

Contact: Aaron Skrbbin, Ed.D., 412-394-5933 • aaron.skrbin@aiu3.net

Every K–12 public and charter school in Pennsylvania is mandated by law to have threat assessment teams in place. The AIU offers full-day training for new teams/team members at the Central Office several times each year. Upon request of the school district, the AIU can also provide on-site training, including a 90-minute team refresher training.

Preventing Risk through Education, Promoting Awareness, and Resilience in Youth (PREPaRE)

Contact: Shannon Fagan, 412-909-7448 • shannon.fagan@aiu3.net

PREPaRE is a structured program developed by the National Association of School Psychologists that focuses on crisis prevention, intervention, and recovery strategies for schools. PREPaRE trains school-based mental health professionals and other educators how to best fill the roles and responsibilities as members of school crisis response teams. PREPaRE is the only comprehensive, nationally available educator training curriculum developed by educators with firsthand experience and formal training in school crisis response. The PREPaRE curriculum includes two core non-sequential workshops that can be taken independently of one another.

Comprehensive School Safety Planning: Prevention Through Recovery

Contact: Aaron Skrbbin, Ed.D., 412-394-5933 • aaron.skrbin@aiu3.net

Available November 2025: This one-day workshop for school mental health professionals, safety and security personnel, administrators, SROs, and other educators, is most effective when crisis team members attend together. Learn how to develop, integrate, and evaluate school safety/crisis teams/plans and how to address issues associated with the media, social media, communication, reunification, students with special needs, culture, and memorials. Training includes a strong focus on reinforcing improved school climate, student behavior and resilience, academic functioning, and school staff crisis response capabilities.

Mental Health Crisis Interventions: Responding to an Acute Traumatic Stressor in School

Contact: Shannon Fagan, 412-909-7448 • shannon.fagan@aiu3.net

Available November 2025: This two-day training is for all school professionals who provide mental health crisis intervention services and community mental health professionals who support schools following a crisis event. Learn how to prevent and prepare for psychological trauma, reaffirm both physical health and perceptions of safety, evaluate trauma exposure by conducting psychological triage, and respond to psychological needs using a multitiered crisis intervention approach. Participants will examine the effectiveness of school crisis intervention and recovery efforts and learn how to facilitate social supports and conduct caregiver trainings, classroom meetings, student psychoeducational groups, group crisis intervention, and individual crisis intervention.

Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR)

Contact: Aaron Skrbbin, Ed.D., 412-394-5933 • aaron.skrbin@aiu3.net

This 1-2 hour interactive, best practices and evidence-based training helps guide participants on how to ask the suicide question, persuade the person to get help, and connect them to appropriate professionals. QPR is an educational program designed to teach lay and professional “gatekeepers” the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to respond. This training can be used with any audience, including educators, professionals in the child-serving system, community members, parents, and youth.

School Safety & Security Site Assessments

Contact: Aaron Skrbbin, Ed.D., 412-394-5933 • aaron.skrbin@aiu3.net

As part of the Baseline Physical Security Standards, adopted by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency School Safety and Security Committee, schools are recommended to have a physical security assessment completed every three years. By request and as time permits, the director of safety & security conducts comprehensive site assessments and safety plan reviews.

School Safety Role-Alike Listserve

Contact: Aaron Skrbbin, Ed.D., 412-394-5933 • aaron.skrbin@aiu3.net

The director of Safety & Security facilitates communication and collaboration between the school safety community through a self-subscribing/unsubscribing listserve.

To subscribe, visit <https://aiu3.simplelists.com>, enter your information, and select “AIU Safety RoleAlike” from the drop-down menu. To ensure real-time delivery of time-sensitive announcements, do not select the “daily digest” option.

School Safety Role-Alike Meetings

Contact: Aaron Skrbin, Ed.D., 412-394-5933 • aaron.skrbin@aiu3.net

The director of Safety & Security convenes weekly informal virtual meetings for school safety updates that also serve as a valuable forum for sharing information and networking. Quarterly meetings are conducted in a more formal setting with a focus on a particular topic and typically offer a directed training or guest speaker.

School Resource Officer Training

Contact: Aaron Skrbin, Ed.D., 412-394-5933 • aaron.skrbin@aiu3.net

By request, the AIU will work with the National Association of School Resource Officers to provide a variety of training programs for school resource officers, school administrators, and school police officers.

Training & Exercise Development

Contact: Aaron Skrbin, Ed.D., 412-394-5933 • aaron.skrbin@aiu3.net

The director of Safety & Security works with schools and partner agencies to identify and meet training goals through targeted activities, such as emergency operations plan review; team and relationship building for school administrators and partner first-responder agencies; and tabletop exercises designed to test emergency plans, clarify roles and responsibilities, and connect with local first responders.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS & CULTURAL IMPACT

Cultural Impact Programming

Contact: Michael Jones, 724-825-1009 • michael.jones@aiu3.net

The Office of Strategic Partnerships and Cultural Impact can provide curated presentations to meet the professional and knowledge development needs within school districts. Presentations can be presented to educators and/or students on a variety of topics that support inclusivity of marginalized communities.

Cultural Impact Support Services & Consultation

Contact: Michael Jones, 724-825-1009 • michael.jones@aiu3.net

In-person or virtual consultations are available to discuss needs and resources to increase representation, inclusion, and belonging of diverse groups. Policy and procedures can also be discussed.

Regional Diversity Resource Groups

Contact: Michael Jones, 724-825-1009 • michael.jones@aiu3.net

The Regional Diversity Resource Groups support diversity efforts and initiatives throughout the region. The resource groups are comprised of leaders from school districts and the AIU.

TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Block of Technology Service Hours (Level 3 Support)

Contact: Scott Kelly, 412-394-5772 • scott.kelly@aiu3.net

The AIU offers districts the option to pre-purchase blocks of Level 3 support hours at a highly competitive rate of \$100 per hour. These blocks are available starting at a minimum of 100 hours, providing flexible, high-level technical support tailored to meet your district's specific needs. Secure your support hours today to ensure prompt and effective assistance when needed.

Email Security Compliance Support

Contact: Scott Kelly, 412-394-5772 • scott.kelly@aiu3.net

The AIU provides complimentary consultation and monitoring services for email security compliance with a focus on Domain-based Message Authentication, Reporting, and Conformance (DMARC) protocol, including support for Sender Policy Framework (SPF) and DomainKeys Identified Mail (DKIM) authentication checks. These services aim to enhance the security and integrity of your district's email communications, ensuring they meet current industry standards and protect against phishing and other email-based threats.

Flexible Technician Services

Contact: Scott Kelly, 412-394-5772 • scott.kelly@aiu3.net

The AIU's Technology Services Department has staff technicians available for engagement on an intermittent basis to support vacancies, large projects, hardware repair, and troubleshooting end-point device support.

Managed DNS & Registrar Services

Contact: Scott Kelly, 412-394-5772 • scott.kelly@aiu3.net

The AIU leverages Amazon Web Services' Route 53 to provide robust managed DNS services. This offering includes comprehensive management of hosted zones and domain registrations for member districts. AWS Route 53 can support any top-level domain, and this service is ideal for managing k12.pa.us domains registered through the Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center. Managed DNS services are offered at no cost to members of Allegheny Connect. The AIU will register and maintain domains on behalf of districts; pass-through fees may apply to cover domain registration costs.

Managed IT Services

Contact: Richard Platts, 412-394-5710 • richard.platts@aiu3.net

To help school districts operate in the most cost-efficient manner possible, the AIU's Technology Services staff provides a variety of services, including infrastructure assessments, managed services, virtual IT director, network administrator, help desk, technical support, PIMS administrator, and E-Rate support. These services allow school districts to augment their staffing to stretch educational dollars.

Protective DNS Implementation Support

Contact: Scott Kelly, 412-394-5772 • scott.kelly@aiu3.net

The AIU offers complimentary consultation services to assist districts in implementing Protective DNS solutions. Our team will support you through the entire process—from evaluating and selecting the right DNS service to its implementation. We provide guidance on two free Protective DNS options specifically available to K-12 schools, ensuring your district's network remains secure without additional costs.

Regional Wide Area Network (RWAN)

Contact: Richard Platts, 412-394-5710 • richard.platts@aiu3.net

The Regional Wide Area Network (RWAN) is a fiber optic educational network comprising 41 school districts, two CTCs and the AIU. Members choose a 1 Gbps or 10 Gbps connection and upstream Internet connectivity. The RWAN provides access to the state's K-12 network (PAIUNET). In addition, students and teachers can connect to the Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center's backbone to Internet2 for direct routes to major content providers including Microsoft, Google, and others. The RWAN is governed by an elected set of technology services leaders from a cross-section of districts.

Remote Infrastructure Management, Monitoring & Support

Contact: Richard Platts, 412-394-5710 • richard.platts@aiu3.net

Please contact for more information.

Special Education Data Collection & Reporting System (PennData)

Contact: Danielle Farquhar, 412-394-7392 • danielle.farquhar@aiu3.net

The AIU is designated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) to collect the special education data needed to meet state and federal reporting requirements. The aggregated data of the region is used to generate 32 reports required by PDE. This service is free to school districts and also saves administrators time and effort.

Technology Assessments

Contact: Richard Platts, 412-394-5710 • richard.platts@aiu3.net

The AIU offers a comprehensive technology environment assessment service that provides districts with a thorough review of their technology environment from an outside perspective to support strategic planning. The assessment follows the CoSN Digital Leap Success Matrix framework and evaluates three main areas: Leadership & Vision, Supporting the Educational Environment, and Managing IT & Business.

Technology Coordinator Role-Alike Meetings

Contact: Richard Platts, 412-394-5710 • richard.platts@aiu3.net

The AIU holds monthly technology coordinator role-alike meetings that are designed to provide updates, best practices, and a forum for discussion for both new and experienced school district technology administrators. A variety of topics are discussed, including online learning, educational technologies, county-wide service networks, and other technology initiatives.

Wi-Fi Assessments

Contact: Scott Kelly, 412-394-5772 • scott.kelly@aiu3.net

The AIU's Technology Services department is available to conduct wireless design audits focusing on access point configuration and placement, using Ekahau, the IT industry's leading Wi-Fi tool for designing and validating wireless networks. The AIU's Ekahau-certified technicians are available for configuration design and analysis.

Family & Community Engagement

At the AIU, we work collaboratively with a variety of groups and organizations. We partner with school districts, private businesses, government entities and non-profit organizations to bring services and resources to students, children and families throughout the region. Through this work, we impact communities and help families become stronger.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SERVICES

Early Head Start

Contact: Shannon McGee, 412-394-5880 • shannon.mcgee@aiu3.net

Early Head Start is a childhood development program for infants, toddlers, pregnant women, and their families. AIU staff works with families to promote child development, help pregnant women access prenatal and postpartum care, support parents' efforts to fulfill their parental roles, and assist families as they move forward toward self-sufficiency. Classes and home-based services are available.

Head Start

Contact: Katie Elk, 412-394-5863 • kathleen.elk@aiu3.net

Head Start is a high-quality preschool program that is funded through federal and state funds and is offered at no cost to eligible participants. The goal of Head Start is to improve school readiness outcomes through a comprehensive services model for families typically at 100% of the federal poverty level. Classroom and in-home service models are available throughout Allegheny County and generally operate on a school-year calendar.

Hi5! Kindergarten Transition

Contact: Wendy Etheridge Smith, Ph.D., 412-394-5757 • wendy.smith@aiu3.net

Hi5! is a countywide effort to support kindergarten transition by connecting early childhood providers with the 43 school districts in Allegheny County. Hi5! serves as the meeting place for all school district staff engaged in early childhood programming, including kindergarten teachers, and supports districts with planning kindergarten registration activities while forging communication between programs. Hi5! assures that school districts have memoranda of understanding between early childhood entities.

Pre-K Counts

Contact: Katie Elk, 412-394-5863 • kathleen.elk@aiu3.net

Pre-K Counts is a high-quality preschool program funded by state funds and offered at no cost to eligible participants. The goal of Pre-K Counts is to improve school readiness outcomes for children whose families earn up to 300% of the federal poverty level. Providers are located in many communities throughout Allegheny County and generally operate on a school-year calendar.

FAMILY LITERACY, EDUCATION & SUPPORT

ADULT EDUCATION & SUPPORT

Allegheny County Jail Workforce Development & GED Preparation Program

Contact: Joe Tokar, 412-464-4061 • joseph.tokar@aiu3.net

The Allegheny County Jail Workforce Development & GED Preparation Program provides literacy and basic adult education classes for inmates within the jail facilities. The program staff offers classes in GED preparation and testing, computer literacy, and basic academic skills, as well as financial literacy and pre-apprenticeship test preparation.

Family Literacy Program

Contact: Clara Folino, 412-281-4494 • adulted@aiu3.net

The Family Literacy Program guides parents to develop their own literacy skills and work with their children on early learning activities. To attend these classes, you must be an adult, age 18 or older, and have a child who is eight (8) years old or younger. Additionally, adults can take English as a Second Language (ESL) classes and receive support to learn to read, write, speak, and listen in English. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Family Support Centers

Contact: Wendy Etheridge Smith, Ph.D., 412-394-5757 • wendy.smith@aiu3.net

Family support centers are community-based programs designed to provide families with resources and support. Families are given opportunities and experiences that enable them to become self-sufficient and nurturing parents. The AIU operates family centers primarily serving the following communities: Carnegie, Clairton, Duquesne, East Allegheny, Highlands, Penn Hills, McKeesport, Steel Valley, Sto-Rox, and West Mifflin as well as the Family & Immigrant Connections program, which is a home-visiting program with bilingual staff to support Latino families.

Fatherhood Initiatives

Contact: Larry Klinger, 412-394-5955 • larry.klinger@aiu3.net

AIU Fatherhood Initiatives are designed to help fathers overcome parental and employment challenges. By providing a variety of opportunities and experiences, fathers become more self-sufficient and nurturing. The program focuses on economic self-sufficiency, healthy child development, and effective parenting.

Immigrant Services & Connections (ISAC)

Contact: Martha Sherlock, 412-325-8111 • martha.sherlock@aiu3.net

The mission of the Immigrant Services and Connections (ISAC) program is to connect vulnerable refugees and immigrants to the resources they need to rebuild their lives. The program also helps support a more welcoming community. Services include culturally and linguistically appropriate resources, service coordination, information assistance, and referrals.

Pearson VUE Testing

Contact: Joe Tokar, 412-350-2249 • joseph.tokar@aiu3.net

Website: pearsonvue.com/test-taker.asp

The AIU is an official Pearson VUE testing center and offers the GED test and more than 125 different exams at the AIU Central Office in Homestead. Some of the certifications include PA Department of Education certification exams, PA Notary Public exam, information technology (Comp TIA, Cisco Systems, Oracle, Microsoft, etc.), legal services, real estate and appraisers, construction trades (NEAT) UST and inspectors (NACE), employment, human resources, management and safety, and many more.

Penn Hills After-School Program

Contact: Wendy Etheridge Smith, Ph.D., 412-394-5757 • wendy.smith@aiu3.net

The Penn Hills After-School Program helps children, kindergarten through sixth grade, improve their academic achievement, social interactions, social and emotional learning, and school attendance. Children are transported to the after-school program from their respective schools.

Project ELECT – Teen Parenting Program

Contact: Mary Lynn Tatala, 412-758-8173 • marylynn.tatala@aiu3.net

Education Leading to Employment and Career Training (Project ELECT), assists pregnant and parenting teens to continue their education and access support services. To be eligible, teens and young adults must be pregnant or parenting, in high school, or working toward their GED, and no older than 21. Services provided through Project ELECT include parenting information, teen parent groups, and case management.

Resilience for Life Program

Contact: Wendy Etheridge Smith, Ph.D., 412-394-5757 • wendy.smith@aiu3.net

The AIU's Resilience for Life Program uses a three-tiered approach to foster the health of families in Clairton. To help families develop coping skills as they face obstacles in their lives, the program provides cafes for parents, psychoeducation for adult caregivers and children, and mindfulness training in each community.

Trauma Education & Response (TEAR)

Contact: Jeannie Dennis, 724-799-6148, jeannie.dennis@aiu3.net

Trauma Education and Response (TEAR) is a coordinated, trauma-informed initiative designed to support children and families impacted by crisis events by strengthening communication between first responders, schools, and family support systems that is based on the Handle With Care program. When law enforcement or emergency personnel encounter a child during a traumatic incident, a confidential electronic notification is sent to the child's school before the next school day, alerting staff that the child may need additional understanding and flexibility without sharing sensitive details. TEAR utilizes a secure electronic notification and database system to ensure timely communication, monitor trends, support follow-up, and measure impact. By bridging crisis response and educational environments, TEAR fosters a community culture that responds to children exposed to adversity with compassion, coordination, and care.

Workforce Development Program & GED Preparation

Contact: Joe Tokar, 412-350-2249 • joseph.tokar@aiu3.net

Cost: No charge

The AIU's Workforce Development Program & GED Preparation is designed to assist learners wanting to brush up on basic skills needed for new employment. The program can also prepare adults to pass the GED test.

EDUCATION FOR FOSTER CARE YOUTH AND CHILDREN & YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Education for Children & Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH)

Contact: Nicole Anderson, 412-394-5894 • nicole.anderson@aiu3.net

Cost: No charge

The Education for Children & Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH) program provides technical assistance, training, and support to school districts in nine Southwestern Pennsylvania counties related to the McKinney-Vento Act, Subtitle B. The ECYEH staff works with families and community agencies to facilitate enrollment and to remove barriers to education for children experiencing homelessness.

Educational Stability for Foster Care Youth

Contact: Tracey Finn, 412-848-5467 • tracey.finn@aiu3.net

Cost: No charge

The Educational Stability for Foster Care Youth program provides technical assistance, training, and support to school districts in nine counties. Program staff work with school districts, charter schools, and county children and youth agencies to facilitate enrollment and remove barriers to education.

Professional Growth

Today's educators are lifelong learners. Whether it's deepening one's understanding of a particular topic, or mentoring the next generation of leaders, we are all continuously learning and growing. Since its inception, the AIU has been the go-to resource for all aspects of professional growth in the education field.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION (CPE)

Continuing Professional Education Credit Courses

Contact: Marie Platts, 412-394-5988 • marie.platts@aiu3.net

Cost: \$399 (3-Credit Course)

Invoice Frequency: Pay upon registration

The Continuing Professional Education program offers all certified K–12 educators a convenient and cost-effective way to earn graduate-level continuing education credits. The CPE program offers more than 40 online courses that help teachers meet their PDE Level II requirements, move up in district pay scales, acquire Act 48 hours, and/or earn a Master's Equivalency Certificate.

Educator Induction Program

Contact: Paul Cindric, Ed.D., 412-394-4940 • paul.cindric@aiu3.net

Cost: \$250 per teacher

Invoice Frequency: Annually, in January

The AIU Continuing Education Department offers an Educator Induction Program to educators throughout Pennsylvania. This cost-effective, convenient service meets one of the conditions necessary in converting educators' certificates from Level I to Level II and is PDE-approved. In addition, the Educator Induction Program serves as a way to acclimate new educators to the contemporary school system, requiring them to reflect upon and practice skills and concepts relevant to the 21st century.

Professional Education Reporting (Act 48)

Contact: Paul Cindric, Ed.D., 412-394-4940 • paul.cindric@aiu3.net

Cost: Reporting fee of \$7 per record

Invoice Frequency: After event

Continuing Professional Education is involved in monitoring and reporting all Act 48-eligible events. Assistance is provided to districts and other organizations on the development of plans, the content or context of professional development opportunities, and the management of Act 48 records

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATIVE PRACTICES

AI Tools in K-12

Contact: Tyler Samstag, 412-394-5829 • tyler.samstag@aiu3.net

Cost: No charge

Professional development and consultation for administrators and teachers on best practices in integrating AI tools (ChatGPT, Copilot, Gemini) into leading, planning, and teaching. Also available: workshops highlighting strategies for teaching students how to use these tools in an ethical and responsible manner.

Apple Education Professional Development

Contact: Jill Jacoby, Ed.D., 412-394-5792 • jill.jacoby@aiu3.net

Cost: \$2,000 per day (team of two facilitators)

Invoice Frequency: Varies with contract, but typically after the event

The AIU's Apple Education Team provides customized professional development, including effective pedagogical practices using Apple devices, iPad/Mac fundamentals, powerful advanced features, and built-in and third-party educational learning resources.

Code.org Computer Science K–12 Curriculum

Contact: Jill Jacoby, Ed.D., 412-394-5792 • jill.jacoby@aiu3.net

As a Code.org Regional Partner, the AIU offers a range of resources for K–12 computer science instruction, including workshops for Code.org’s Artificial Intelligence Foundations, CS Fundamentals (K–5), CS Discoveries (6–10) CS Principles (9–12), and CSA curricula, with the latter two having an Advanced Placement option. Additionally, the AIU hosts computer science workshops designed for school administrators and counselors—and can hold strategic planning sessions around K–12 integration or computer science.

Computer Science — Apple Can Code Curriculum

Contact: Jill Jacoby, Ed.D., 412-394-5792 • jill.jacoby@aiu3.net

As a certified Apple Education trainer, the AIU offers professional development for Apple’s Everyone Can Code curricula. This free resource provides engaging, unplugged, and online activities to help students in third through eighth grades learn computational thinking and block-based programming.

Esports Facilitator Role-Alike Meetings

Contact: Jill Jacoby, Ed.D., 412-394-5792 • jill.jacoby@aiu3.net

The AIU holds monthly, virtual meetings for esports coaches and facilitators focused on best practices and collaboration and competition between schools. Interested schools without existing esports programs are invited to join this group for assistance in all stages of esports implementation.

Instructional Coaches’ Network

Contact: Rachel McVeagh, 412-394-4535 • rachel.mcveagh@aiu3.net

Heather Moschetta, Ph.D., 412-394-4919 • heather.moschetta@aiu3.net

The AIU holds monthly instructional coaching workshops to provide information related to best practices and hands-on exercises to build coaching skills. Participants learn tools and techniques for effective academic coaching and engage in collaborative problem solving with peers. The role-alike workshops are open to coaches who specialize in technology, literacy, and math, as well as general instructional coaching.

Library Coordinators and Media Specialist Network

Contact: Rachel McVeagh, 412-394-4535 • rachel.mcveagh@aiu3.net

Librarians and Media Specialists can take advantage of several workshops held throughout the year. These workshops support these educators, often the only one in this role in their building, keep their practice current by learning information from the field, such as best practices, innovative approaches, and new opportunities. They build a sense of community, connecting to share ideas and problem-solve together.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)

English as a Second Language (ESL) Program Specialist Certification Program

Contact: Charlene Byrd, 412-394-3637 • charlene.byrd@aiu3.net

Earn your ESL Program Specialist certification in less than a year with the AIU’s 18-credit blended program that includes online classwork, live class meetings via Zoom, and field experience. Courses are taught by ESL professionals currently working in the field and supervised by the ESL program director.

New ESL Teacher Induction Program

Contact: Kelly Noyes, Ed.D., 412-394-5926 • kelly.noyes@aiu3.net

Non-contracting districts can elect to send their newly hired ESL teachers to a five-month ESL New Teacher Induction Program. The ESL New Teacher Induction is a mentoring program in which teachers learn about ESL-specific laws, regulations, and assessments. This training is a human resources investment that encourages student success.

Professional Development

Contact: Kelly Noyes, Ed.D., 412-394-5926 • kelly.noyes@aiu3.net

AIU ESL professional development sessions are designed to align with the district’s strategic plan and local initiatives. AIU ESL administrators facilitate each session and cover topics such as best practices in the education of English learners, PDE updates, and sustainability requirements.

Title III Consortium Services – AIU Serviced Districts

Contact: Jill Santa, 412-394-5994 • jill.santa@aiu3.net

Through the K–12 ESL Title III Consortium, participating districts receive professional development, technology, and supplemental materials to support English language learners.

Title III Consortium – Technical Training Sessions

Contact: Jill Santa, 412-394-5994 • jill.santa@aiu3.net

School administrators in Title III served school districts who oversee the ESL program participate in a role-alike group that meets quarterly. These meetings provide technical training, updates and information from PDE, guidance on best practices and legal requirements, and ongoing support for ESL administrators.

GIFTED EDUCATION

Gifted Education

Contact: Amy Davis McShane, 412-394-4193 • amy.mcshane@aiu3.net

Offered programs include gifted boot camps and gifted networking meetings. Offerings vary per year. Services also include assistance to schools in relation to gifted education regulations and updates.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Curriculum Coordinator Role-Alike Meetings

Contact: Jill Jacoby, Ed.D., 412-394-5792 • jill.jacoby@aiu3.net

District administrators responsible for curriculum, instruction, and assessment meet monthly for information and resource sharing, networking, and problem solving.

Principal Role-Alike Meetings

Professional Learning (Act 45) – Learning Cohorts & Mentoring

Contact: Jill Jacoby, Ed.D., 412-394-5792 • jill.jacoby@aiu3.net

Monthly virtual meetings (K-6, 7-12) for school administrators, providing information and resource sharing, networking, and problem solving.

School Counselor Role-Alike Meetings

Contact: Dina Hartford, 412-394-5897 • dina.hartford@aiu3.net

Quarterly virtual meetings for school counselors, providing information and resource sharing, networking, and problem solving.

MATH & SCIENCE COLLABORATIVE (MSC)

Customized In-District Mathematics & Science Professional Learning, PreK-12

Contact: Michael Fierle, 412-394-4628 • michael.fierle@aiu3.net

Corinne Murawski, Ed.D., 412-394-4629 • corinne.murawski@aiu3.net

Michele Burgess, 412-394-4639 • michele.burgess@aiu3.net

The AIU MSC provides customized, in-district professional learning based on each school's unique needs and based on effective, research-based practices to build more equitable and rigorous STEM programs. Other services include curriculum audits and assistance with curriculum writing.

Mathematics & Science Professional Learning for Using Effective Instructional Practices to Improve Student Learning, Pre-K-12

Contact: Michael Fierle, 412-394-4628 • michael.fierle@aiu3.net

Rooted in research on how children best learn mathematics and science, the AIU MSC provides professional learning focused on high-leverage practices to meet the rigor of the Pennsylvania Core Mathematics Standards and the newly adopted STEELS (Pennsylvania Integrated Standards for Science, Technology & Engineering, and Environmental Literacy and Sustainability). Professional learning experiences include content-specific, research-based courses and institutes in STEM content areas, and STEM PLCs/communities of practice that allow for networking and learning across the region. For more information about the programs and services provided by the AIU MSC, visit <https://www.aiu3.net/msc>.

Leadership in School Mathematics (Act 45 – Learning Cohorts & Mentoring)

Contact: Michael Fierle, 412-394-4628 • michael.fierle@aiu3.net

This Act 45 course is approved for 36 hours and is designed to enhance the ability of principals, curriculum directors, instructional coaches, department chairs, other school leaders to support high-quality mathematics teaching and learning and mathematics professional development efforts in their schools. Participants will attend two in-person meetings at the AIU and two virtual synchronous sessions.

Storytime STEM-Packs™ and Storytime STEM+C Adventures

Contact: Michael Fierle, 412-394-4628 • michael.fierle@aiu3.net

Cost: Varies

Storytime STEM-Packs are instructional materials for PreK-2 that use children’s literature as engagement to lead into STEM+C activities. Storytime STEM-Packs come as kits that contain everything an educator needs to implement them. Each STEM-Pack is anchored by a popular children’s book that launches the activities. All the hands-on and print materials for up to 24 children are also included. A one-page facilitator guide helps educators quickly see everything they need to know for the activities.

Storytime STEM+ C Adventures are instructional materials that **highlight computer science and computational thinking** but also have STEM activities woven throughout. All Storytime STEM+C Adventures consist of five themed comprehensive computer science and STEM activities. They are anchored by three children’s books and come with six Bee-Bots/Blue-Bots and six colorful themed vinyl mats. All the hands-on and print materials for up to 24 children are also included.

To learn more about Storytime STEM-Packs and Storytime STEM Adventures, visit www.storytimestem.com.

PA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (PDE) INITIATIVES

Accelerated Learning Support

Contact: Jill Jacoby, Ed.D., 412-394-5792 • jill.jacoby@aiu3.net

The AIU offers networking opportunities to foster collaborative learning and problem solving across LEAs as they focus on safe and equitable instructional delivery models in support of continuity of education. Individual technical support and assistance is provided to school leaders as they work through community-specific continuity of education considerations and decision making.

Act 45 (District Administrator Continuing Professional Education Requirements)

Contact: Jill Jacoby, Ed.D., 412-394-5792 • jill.jacoby@aiu3.net

Act 45 is for specific districts administrators to earn continuing professional education hours through PDE-approved courses and activities.

Act 158 (Pennsylvania Graduation Requirements)

Contact: Jill Jacoby, Ed.D., 412-394-5792 • jill.jacoby@aiu3.net

Professional development and consultation on Pennsylvania’s Act 158 high school graduation requirements, including implementation of the guidelines as well as development of alternative and evidence-based pathways.

Career Ready PA

Contact: Amy Davis McShane, 412-394-4193 • amy.mcshane@aiu3.net

Pennsylvania’s future depends on having a well-educated and skilled workforce prepared to meet the demands of a global, knowledge-based 21st-century economy. PDE developed Career Ready PA to address this need by providing educators with access to professional development training opportunities that deliver the best practices and resources needed to prepare students for postsecondary success. Programs offered include a Career Ready PA Boot Camp and Career Ready Networking.

Classroom Diagnostic Tools (CDT/Firefly)

Contact: Jill Jacoby, Ed.D., 412-394-5792 • jill.jacoby@aiu3.net

Teaching & Learning staff train educators to use Pennsylvania Classroom Diagnostic Tools, a set of online assessments, divided by content area, and designed to provide diagnostic information to guide instruction and remediation. This service is free and assists educators in improving the chances of academic success in their classrooms.

Comprehensive Planning

Contact: Jill Jacoby, Ed.D., 412-394-5792 • jill.jacoby@aiu3.net

Teaching & Learning staff provide training and technical support to school administrators, teachers, and other educators in the state-mandated comprehensive planning process for principals, teachers, and non-teaching professionals.

Educator Evaluation

Contact: Paul Cindric, Ed.D., 412-394-4940 • paul.cindric@aiu3.net

Teaching & Learning staff provide training and technical support to school administrators, teachers and other educators in the state-mandated evaluation processes for principals, teachers, and non-teaching professionals as outlined in Act 13.

Federal Programs Coordinator Services

Contact: Kelly Noyes, Ed.D., 412-394-5926 • kelly.noyes@aiu3.net

Districts may contract for support with their Federal Programs responsibilities, including the eGrants consolidated application, monthly and annual reporting requirements, and compliance procedures.

Future Ready PA Index

Contact: Jill Jacoby, Ed.D., 412-394-5792 • jill.jacoby@aiu3.net

Teaching & Learning staff provide assistance in the analysis of the Future Ready PA Index, which provides a holistic view of a school's effectiveness as part of ESSA, and offers a resource for LEAs to communicate and compare performance, analyze performance indicators related to achievement and growth, and encourage best practices.

PA Value-Added Assessment System (PVAAS)

Contact: Jill Jacoby, Ed.D., 412-394-5792 • jill.jacoby@aiu3.net

Teaching & Learning staff trained in the Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System (PVAAS) provide support and technical assistance to districts in interpreting and understanding available PVAAS reports.

Personalizing Learning Through Student-Centered Instruction

Contact: Jill Jacoby, Ed.D., 412-394-5792 • jill.jacoby@aiu3.net

Teaching & Learning staff provide training and support to school administrators and teachers in personalized learning, an educational approach tailored to meet the individual needs, skills, and interests of each student. This method leverages various instructional strategies, technologies, and learning pathways to provide customized support, allowing students to learn at their own pace and in their preferred style.

School Assessment Data Analysis

Contact: Jill Jacoby, Ed.D., 412-394-5792 • jill.jacoby@aiu3.net

Teaching & Learning staff provide assistance in the analysis of school assessment data, including PSSAs, Keystones, PVAAS and Act 13 Building-Level Score. Free assistance is available to aid in identifying strengths and needs, pinpointing root causes and supporting school improvement.

School Improvement Facilitation (A-TSI/TSI)

Contact: Paul Cindric, Ed.D., 412-394-4940 • paul.cindric@aiu3.net

Dina Hartford, 412-394-5897 • dina.hartford@aiu3.net

The AIU provides services to support schools and districts in need of improvement. Teaching & Learning professionals assist in enhancing academic performance and growth that focuses on research-based methods embedded in the cycle of improvement. These services include training and technical support to schools designated by the state as Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (A-TSI) and Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI).

Standards Aligned System Training

Contact: Jill Jacoby, Ed.D., 412-394-5792 • jill.jacoby@aiu3.net

The Pennsylvania Standards Aligned System (SAS) is a comprehensive, research-based framework to improve student achievement. SAS identifies six elements that impact student achievement: standards, assessments, curriculum framework, instruction, materials and resources, and safe and supportive schools. The SAS website provides useful resources aligned to each of these elements.

READING ACHIEVEMENT CENTER (RAC)

Adolescent Literacy Institute

Contact: Heather Moschetta, Ph.D., 412-394-4919 • heather.moschetta@aiu3.net

The Adolescent Literacy Institute is a series of workshops for middle and high school teachers that focus on research-based literacy practices that support students as they become college and career ready. Specifically aligned with brain research on how adolescents learn, this workshop series engages participants in the research behind and modeling of effective reading and writing instruction for the secondary grades. Two professional learning structures are available: an in-person series at the AIU Central Office or a fully online asynchronous course.

Comprehension, Close Reading & Complex Text: Laying the Foundation K–2

Contact: Lisa Yonek, Ed.D., 412-394-1370 • lisa.yonek@aiu3.net

Transitioning students to the demands of the PA Core Standards is not a job just for teachers in the tested grades. This four-day series supports teachers in the primary grades in aligning their instructional practices to the Pennsylvania Core. Participants learn how to incorporate informational text, text-dependent questions, close reading, scaffolds for complex text, text annotation, rigorous tasks, and academic vocabulary into their everyday practice.

Customized Reading Support

Contact: Heather Moschetta, Ph.D., 412-394-4919 • heather.moschetta@aiu3.net

Lisa Yonek, Ed.D., 412-394-1370 • lisa.yonek@aiu3.net

The Reading Achievement Center offers professional development that is focused on increasing student achievement. Professional development is customized to each school's unique needs and based on effective, research-based instructional practice to build rigorous literacy programs.

English Language Arts Curriculum Auditing, Alignment, and/or Writing

Contact: Heather Moschetta, Ph.D., 412-394-4919 • heather.moschetta@aiu3.net

Lisa Yonek, Ed.D., 412-394-1370 • lisa.yonek@aiu3.net

The AIU's RAC team performs audits for English Language Arts curricula and produces a customized report summarizing strengths, weaknesses, and recommendations. Additionally, AIU RAC supports districts in a customized curriculum writing process to align ELA curricula to academic standards and best practices.

English Language Arts Symposium

Contact: Heather Moschetta, Ph.D., 412-394-4919 • heather.moschetta@aiu3.net

The Reading Achievement Center provides two annual symposiums that focus on expert literacy practices aligned to the PA Core Standards along with samples of instruction that meet the standards' rigorous expectations.

K–3 Reading Apprenticeship Model

Contact: Lisa Yonek, Ed.D., 412-394-1370 • lisa.yonek@aiu3.net

The K–3 Reading Apprenticeship Model is a unique professional development model that supports primary reading teachers with the knowledge, skills, best practices, and on-site support in teaching all students to be skilled readers and writers. This opportunity consists of initial intensive, comprehensive training in reading history, pedagogy, theory, research, and proven instructional practice and monthly follow-up training to build breadth and depth of professional knowledge in the English Language Arts. Teachers meet for 12 sessions at the AIU and additional technical support takes place at each site.

Keys to Comprehension

Contact: Heather Moschetta, Ph.D., 412-394-4919 • heather.moschetta@aiu3.net

Lisa Yonek, Ed.D., 412-394-1370 • lisa.yonek@aiu3.net

This four-day professional development series focuses exclusively on the reading comprehension domain of literacy. Targeted for teachers in grades 3–7, the content is directly aligned with the PA Core Standards and the state test expectations. Participants learn techniques to unlock reading comprehension, applicable to both literature and informational text.

Keystone Exams in Literature

Contact: Heather Moschetta, Ph.D., 412-394-4919 • heather.moschetta@aiu3.net

Teaching & Learning professionals support districts in their efforts to better understand the requirements of the Literature Keystone Exams. Training can include selecting texts appropriate for Keystone Exam complexity, deconstructing the format of fiction and nonfiction test items, and designing instruction around the rigor required for the exam.

Literacy Design Collaborative (LDC)

Contact: Heather Moschetta, Ph.D., 412-394-4919 • heather.moschetta@aiu3.net

Lisa Yonek, Ed.D., 412-394-1370 • lisa.yonek@aiu3.net

Literacy Design Collaborative (LDC) equips teachers, instructional coaches, and school leaders with tools and learning experiences that build rigorous intellectual experiences and opportunities for students. The AIU's RAC team guides teacher teams through LDC's backward design process and using the nationally vetted curriculum library, LDC CoreTools, to create literacy-based units in any content area.

PA Core Standards for English Language Arts

Contact: Heather Moschetta, Ph.D., 412-394-4919 • heather.moschetta@aiu3.net

Lisa Yonek, Ed.D., 412-394-1370 • lisa.yonek@aiu3.net

Pennsylvania has transitioned to the PA Core Standards for instruction and assessment. Customized professional development is available to assist district staff in fully implementing the English Language Arts PA Core Standards through aligning curriculum and making needed changes and refinements in instructional practices.

Reading Achievement Center Resource Room

Contact: Heather Moschetta, Ph.D., 412-394-4919 • heather.moschetta@aiu3.net

Lisa Yonek, Ed.D., 412-394-1370 • lisa.yonek@aiu3.net

The Reading Achievement Center includes limited samples of effective commercial programs and other educator resources to supplement and enhance classroom instruction and out-of-school learning. Schools can view samples of several major programs before piloting or purchasing.

Reading Specialists' Network

Contact: Heather Moschetta, Ph.D., 412-394-4919 • heather.moschetta@aiu3.net

Lisa Yonek, Ed.D., 412-294-1370 • lisa.yonek@aiu3.net

This network provides reading specialists with a forum to meet, discuss, and deepen their practice in working with struggling students and provides teachers with resources and valuable instructional strategies. Reading specialists meet four times during the year.

Science of Reading for Administrators

Contact: Lisa Yonek, Ed.D., 412-294-1370 • lisa.yonek@aiu3.net

This course is designed to provide administrators with in-depth knowledge and skills to support teachers with effective, evidence-based instruction aligned to principles of Science of Reading using a structured literacy approach. Participants will learn the big ideas of reading instruction and how to use tools in classroom observations to discover strengths and gaps in instruction at the classroom and school/district levels. Administrators will also analyze structures in place that support keeping an eye on student growth and achievement, reflect upon effectiveness observed, and problem solve next steps to enhance teaching and learning. Administrators will earn 40 Act 45 credits upon completion of the course.

Structured Literacy

Contact: Heather Moschetta, Ph.D., 412-394-4919 • heather.moschetta@aiu3.net

Lisa Yonek, Ed.D., 412-294-1370 • lisa.yonek@aiu3.net

Structured Literacy training is required for certificate holders of Pre-K and elementary, middle school (all content areas), special education PK-12, ESL PK-12, and reading specialist PK-12. The Reading Achievement Center's structured literacy training sessions fulfill the Chapter 49 requirements and equip teachers to implement literacy-based instructional practices aligned with the science of reading. Structured literacy training is tailored to the unique classroom needs of various certificate holders and aligned with the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Structured Literacy Program Framework Guidelines.

Supporting Teacher Growth with English Language Arts Common Core Shifts (Online Act 45 course)

Contact: Lisa Yonek, Ed.D., 412-294-1370 • lisa.yonek@aiu3.net

The targeted audience for this course is school-based administrators seeking additional professional learning to support teacher practice in the area of literacy, as it relates to the Common Core Shifts, specifically in the elementary grades K-3. The course focuses on building comprehension and analysis skills with primary students and complex text. This six-session online course will provide administrators with a total of 41 Act 45 hours.

Text-Dependent Analysis: Effective Instructional Practices

Contact: Heather Moschetta, Ph.D., 412-394-4919 • heather.moschetta@aiu3.net

This three-day series focuses on effective teaching practices to help students overcome some of the biggest struggles with the text dependent analysis (TDA) portion of the PSSA. Sessions focus on teaching students how to understand the prompt, read and write for analysis, determine the best evidence, and craft the essay. All materials are provided, including sample prompts, passages, and student responses for modeling.

Text-Dependent Analysis Part 2: Deepening Instructional Practice

Contact: Heather Moschetta, Ph.D., 412-394-4919 • heather.moschetta@aiu3.net

Lisa Yonek, Ed.D., 412-294-1370 • lisa.yonek@aiu3.net

This three-day series is open to all teachers in grades 4–8 who have completed the first course, Text Dependent Analysis: Effective Instructional Practices. In this series, participants will deepen their understanding of the reading, thinking, and writing processes necessary for TDA success—examining student work and using the TDA Learning Progressions to make instructional decisions. TDA passages and prompts and other materials will be provided.

Thinking Through the Pencil

Contact: Heather Moschetta, Ph.D., 412-394-4919 • heather.moschetta@aiu3.net

This four-day workshop series is designed to build students' critical thinking skills through writing. Designed for practical application in grades 4–8 ELA classrooms, topics include teaching academic form, increasing the frequency of writing opportunities, providing effective and timely feedback, incorporating writing into reading, and incorporating grammar instruction into reading and writing.

Word Wizards

Contact: Heather Moschetta, Ph.D., 412-394-4919 • heather.moschetta@aiu3.net

Build your students into word wizards! This three-day series presents teachers in grades 3-12 with research and practical strategies to strengthen students' word knowledge, through both indirect vocabulary exposure and direct vocabulary instruction.

SOCIAL STUDIES

C3 Framework

Contact: Paul Cindric, Ed.D., 412-394-4940 • paul.cindric@aiu3.net

This three-hour workshop guides social studies educators through the National Council for the Social Studies' research-based C3 (college, career, and civic life) Framework. C3 provides an inquiry arch of four dimensions and includes descriptive student performance indicators for the disciplines of social studies (geography, economics, history, and civics) for K–12 students.

Historical Thinking in the Middle Grades

Contact: Paul Cindric, Ed.D., 412-394-4940 • paul.cindric@aiu3.net

This three-day series provides middle school history teachers with practical experiences in using, teaching, and assessing historical thinking concepts. Utilizing primary and secondary sources, teachers will engage in inquiry-based techniques for the purpose of making history classes come alive for their students.

Social Studies Network

Contact: Paul Cindric, Ed.D., 412-394-4940 • paul.cindric@aiu3.net

The Social Studies Network provides support to districts and teachers in the areas of instructional strategies, integration of PA Core Standards literacy standards, and PA social studies content standards. Assistance is also provided in curriculum design as well as professional development in the social studies disciplines. In addition, a Social Studies Network series of professional development facilitates networking between social studies teachers and regional, national, and global institutions to advance the level of civic engagement and historical thinking among all learners.

TRAINING & CONSULTATION (TAC)

Assistive Technology Supports

Contact: Kendra Bittner, 412-394-5872 • kendra.bittner@aiu3.net

Scott Dougherty, 412-394-1346 • scott.dougherty@aiu3.net

Assistive technology services include consulting with student teams; providing information needed for the testing or acquisition of devices; assisting teams in the selection, customization, application, retention, or replacement of devices; aiding teams in the integration of assistive technology into instruction and coordinated therapies; and providing training and technical assistance. Training specific to accessibility features within Word and Google Chrome is also available to increase implementation of these tools to assist students in accessing the general education curriculum.

Autism Support

Contact: Amanda Zimmer, 412-394-4624 • amanda.zimmer@aiu3.net

Marisa Esposito, 412-394-5751 • marisa.esposito@aiu3.net

Professional development and technical assistance are provided to AIU member school districts and programs to address instructional strategies for students with autism spectrum disorder. From large-scale training sessions to school-based team meetings, AIU-TaC consultants present research-based approaches to support progress in academic, social, communication, and behavioral domains for students with ASD.

General IDEA Supports

Contact: Katie Stenger Ed.D, 412-394-5966 • katie.mcbroomstenger@aiu3.net

Professional development and technical assistance are available to support teams in the construction of defensible IEPs that are data driven, including IEP goal development, progress monitoring, positive behavior support plans, and crisis plans. Special education personnel may also receive training and support pertaining to education benefit review process and the preparation and follow-up to compliance monitoring activities..

Intensive Interagency Coordination

Contact: Katie Stenger Ed.D, 412-394-5966 • katie.mcbroomstenger@aiu3.net

Marisa Esposito, 412-394-5751 • marisa.esposito@aiu3.net

The interagency coordinator facilitates problem-solving teams in AIU member school districts and charter schools to assist in the design and delivery of coordinated services to individual school-age children and their families. Intensive interagency coordination is critical when a student does not have an appropriate placement or is at risk of losing an educational placement.

Least Restrictive Environment/Inclusive Practices

Contact: Amanda Zimmer, 412-394-4624 • amanda.zimmer@aiu3.net

Kendra Bittner, 412-394-5872 • kendra.bittner@aiu3.net

Scott Dougherty, 412-394-1346 • scott.dougherty@aiu3.net

Professional development and technical assistance are provided to support school districts in implementing the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) of IDEA and related case law. The focus is on assisting teachers and administrators to ensure that all students gain access to grade level content standards. Training in the alternate eligible content for ELA, math, science, and writing is also available. Additionally, professional development and implementation assistance with the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) can work to achieve firm goals and grade-level standards and enable students to become expert learners when barriers are removed. Finally, teams may request facilitation of the Supplementary Aids and Services Toolkit. This toolkit and reflection practice is used to ensure fuller participation for students with disabilities in the general education setting.

Life Skills/Supporting Students with Complex Needs

Contact: Amanda Zimmer, 412-394-4624 amanda.zimmer@aiu3.net

Kendra Bittner, 412-394-5872 • kendra.bittner@aiu3.net

Marisa Esposito, 412-394-5751 • marisa.esposito@aiu3.net

Professional development and technical assistance are provided to educational teams who support students with complex needs. Professional development will be designed to meet the diverse learning needs of this student group in the areas of academics, behavior, and communication across various settings. Statewide assessment support in the PASA is also available. Consultations are customized to meet a variety of team and individual student needs.

Literacy & Writing Supports

Contact: Kate Stuckey, 412-394-5846 • katherine.stuckey@aiu3.net

Professional development and technical assistance are provided to educators in the Science of Reading and writing. Outcomes include deepening professional knowledge of how literacy skills are attained, improved use of assessment data, and refining of practices to support students who struggle. Topics include foundational skill development in reading and writing, assessment administration and interpretation, planning and delivery of interventions, structured literacy and multisensory instruction, dyslexia, dysgraphia, and literacy supports for students with autism and complex needs.

Mathematics Supports (MTSS)

Contact: Shelly Burr, Ed.D., 412-394-5781 • shelly.burr@aiu3.net

Professional development and technical assistance are provided to support the implementation of a Multi-Tiered System of Supports in academics. Outcomes include deepening professional knowledge of how evidence-based instructional strategies and interventions can support all learners, but especially students who struggle in mathematics. Topics include assessment and intervention, Concrete-Representational-Abstract approach to teaching the four operations, fractions and decimals, schema-based instruction, and supporting students with dyscalculia and complex needs.

Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)

Contact: Kate Stuckey, 412-394-5846 • katherine.stuckey@aiu3.net

Shelly Burr, Ed.D., 412-394-5781 • shelly.burr@aiu3.net

Benny Canan, 878-220-4063 • benjamin.canan@aiu3.net

Jacob Minsinger, Ed.D., 412-394-1388 • jacob.minsinger@aiu3.net

Professional development and technical assistance are provided to support the implementation of a Multi-Tiered System of Support in academics. MTSS utilizes data to inform evidence-based practices and programs to promote equitable outcomes for all students. Services include training and support in universal screening, diagnostic assessments, data analysis and teaming, class-wide and small group intervention, and progress monitoring.

School-Wide Positive Behavior Interventions & Support (PBIS)

Contact: Crystal Vogtsberger, Ed.D., 412-394-3475 • crystal.vogtsberger@aiu3.net

Shanna Bradfield, 412-394-5702 • shanna.bradfield@aiu3.net

Jacob Minsinger, Ed.D., 412-394-1388 • jacob.minsinger@aiu3.net

Professional development and ongoing technical assistance are provided to support implementation of School-Wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) at both universal and advanced tiers. Tier 1 implementation includes training teams on data systems and practices to ensure equitable outcomes for all students. Advanced tiers build upon Tier 1 to include intensified interventions such as Check-In Check-Out, Check & Connect, Rehabilitation for Empowerment, Natural Supports, Education & Work (RENEW), Functional Behavior Assessment, and Positive Behavior Support Plans.

Positive Behavior Supports

Contact: Crystal Vogtsberger, Ed.D., 412-394-3475 • crystal.vogtsberger@aiu3.net

Shanna Bradfield, 412-394-5702 • shanna.bradfield@aiu3.net

Jacob Minsinger, Ed.D., 412-394-1388 • jacob.minsinger@aiu3.net

Professional development and technical assistance are provided in the areas of individual student consultations, functional behavior assessments, positive behavior supports plans, classroom management consultations/training, trauma-informed practices, social-emotional learning, attendance, and function-based supports for students who are at risk.

Secondary Transition Services

Contact: Erin Grimm, Ed.D., 412-394-4952 • erin.grimm@aiu3.net

Professional development and technical assistance are provided related to all aspects of transition services as required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education. Session topics include post-secondary program resources, options and community supports, pre-employment transition services, OVR eligibility, transition law, policy, self-determination, self-advocacy, and the development of high-quality transition programming utilizing Transition Discoveries.

transformED

Educator Workshops

Contact: Tyler Samstag, 412-394-5829 • tyler.samstag@aiu3.net
Rachel McVeagh, 412-394-4535 • rachel.mcveagh@aiu3.net

Educator workshops are radically relevant professional learning experiences for educators in Western Pennsylvania. transformED educator workshops emphasize hands-on practice with new ideas, skills, and tools, together with peer-to-peer support that helps teachers return to their classroom confident and ready to inspire and support their students. Workshops focus on a variety of topics that include robotics, podcasting, digital citizenship, Canva for education, hydroponics, and more.

Human-Centered Design Consultation

Contact: Tyler Samstag, 412-394-5829 • tyler.samstag@aiu3.net

Human-centered design is an iterative approach to problem solving that intentionally seeks out people with different perspectives, knowledge, skills, and experience and has them work together to create a practical solution for a real-world problem. To support districts in developing human-centered solutions to school-based challenges and problems, transformED offers tailored consultation in human-centered design. Facilitators will support district teams in framing challenges, seeking input from diverse stakeholders, and brainstorming and prototyping innovative, out-of-the-box solutions.

Library Coordinators and Media Specialist Network

Contact: Rachel McVeagh, 412-394-4535 • rachel.mcveagh@aiu3.net

Librarians and Media Specialists can take advantage of several workshops held throughout the year. These workshops support these educators, often the only one in this role in their building, keep their practice current by learning information from the field, such as best practices, innovative approaches, and new opportunities. They build a sense of community, connecting to share ideas and problem-solve together.

STEAM Lending Library

Contact: Tyler Samstag, 412-394-5829 • tyler.samstag@aiu3.net
Rachel McVeagh, 412-394-4535 • rachel.mcveagh@aiu3.net

The AIU STEAM Lending Library allows districts to put the latest education technology to the test in their classrooms at no cost. Supported by free training, district leaders and teachers borrow class sets of STEAM-based gadgets and tools to find out what works best for their students in a single building or districtwide. The lending library is a way to infuse more technology than budgets allow, or simply to “try before you buy.” Equipment includes sets of the Hummingbird and Finch Robots, Micro:bits, Sphero Robots, and more.

STEAM Teacher & Coordinator Role-Alike Meetings

Contact: Tyler Samstag, 412-394-5829 • tyler.samstag@aiu3.net
Rachel McVeagh, 412-394-4535 • rachel.mcveagh@aiu3.net

This role-alike group is designed for regional STEM/STEAM teachers and coordinators to network, share content, and build skills. Educators network with other educators to learn how they are integrating STEAM, maker education, and coding in their curriculum.

transformED

Contact: Tyler Samstag, 412-394-5829 • tyler.samstag@aiu3.net
Rachel McVeagh, 412-394-4535 • rachel.mcveagh@aiu3.net

transformED connects educators with the professional learning, technology access, peer networks, and grant funding they need to start, scale, and sustain transformational change. By staying ahead of the curve, transformED helps districts prepare for changes coming their way and make a plan to integrate new instructional practices and technologies. By meeting educators where they are, transformED offers many points of entry to the broader movement for innovation in education.

The transformED Change Studio

Contact: Tyler Samstag, 412-394-5829 • tyler.samstag@aiu3.net;
Rachel McVeagh, 412-394-4535 • rachel.mcveagh@aiu3.net

The Change Studio brings together small groups of people in a similar role from across districts to explore and collectively enact change around a specific theme or topic.

transformED Curriculum Review

Contact: Tyler Samstag, 412-394-5829 • Tyler.samstag@aiu3.net;
Rachel McVeagh, 412-394-4535 • rachel.mcveagh@aiu3.net

Allow transformED to help you stay ahead of the curve by looking at the existing pockets of innovation in your district and working with you to establish a roadmap that can both better align those offerings and position your curriculum to meet the needs of an ever-changing world. This review includes a day-long district visit (meet with teachers, observe classes, potentially interact with students) and three meetings (goal-setting, reviewing observations from visit and presenting potential strategies, planning implementation of the district-selected strategy).

WATERFRONT LEARNING

Blended Learning Classroom Support

Contact: Jill Manczka, Ed.D., 412-394-1378 • jill.manczka@aiu3.net

This professional development is designed for districts implementing blended learning, where students complete online course-work within a traditional brick-and-mortar classroom. It also serves as an effective solution for districts that unexpectedly lose a teacher during the school year, allowing instruction with a Pennsylvania-certified online teacher to continue through online courses supported by in-person, district-supplied classroom monitors. The training focuses on best practices for classroom monitors, paraprofessionals, or facilitators who supervise students working in online courses during the school day. Participants will learn strategies to establish clear expectations and routines, support students in navigating online course platforms, monitor progress, encourage accountability, foster engagement, and troubleshoot common challenges in a blended classroom.

Customized Professional Development for Virtual Instruction

Contact: Jill Manczka, Ed.D., 412-394-1378 • jill.manczka@aiu3.net

We offer customized professional development on online learning topics, including data security, hybrid design, and innovative instruction.

Virtual Learning Liaison Role-Alike Meetings

Contact: Jill Manczka, Ed.D., 412-394-1378 • jill.manczka@aiu3.net

The Virtual Learning Liaison Role-Alike meetings are held quarterly and serve as a venue for district liaisons to learn, share, and discuss relevant issues and information regarding online learning.

Virtual Learning Services (K-12)

Contact: Jill Manczka, Ed.D., 412-394-1378 • jill.manczka@aiu3.net

Waterfront Learning provides turnkey virtual and hybrid educational options for school districts through personalized full and part-time services in core content, world language, STEM, advanced placement, dual credit, credit recovery, Keystone remediation and career readiness. The K-6 program provides core, elective, language and gifted course offerings. We also contract with districts for curriculum expansion, participation of students with special needs, alternative education, hardware and internet allocation, hybrid learning planning, and professional development.

Districts may purchase online courses that include PA Certified Teachers of Record or choose to utilize district teachers with the content provided by Waterfront Learning.

Special Education Services

For more than 50 years, the AIU has offered a variety of unique, child-focused special education services for students with special needs. Our caring staff of qualified teachers, therapists, and paraprofessionals foster students' success by tailoring services to meet each student's individualized needs. We serve students ages 3 to 21 who have developmental delays, moderate to significant disabilities, and/or require related services to access the general education curriculum.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Extended School Year

Contact: Brian Welles, 412-394-5732 • brian.welles@aiu3.net

The AIU Special Education and Pupil Services Division coordinates and provides ESY programs in three special education schools — Mon Valley, Pathfinder, and Sunrise schools. The division also provides speech/language, OT/PT, hearing and vision supports, as well as educational interpreting services for Allegheny County districts, charter schools, non-public schools, and those outside of the Allegheny County catchment area upon request.

Local Task Force

Contact: James Palmiero, Ed.D., 412-394-5956 • james.palmiero@aiu3.net

Brian Welles, 412-394-5732 • brian.welles@aiu3.net

The Local Task Force (LTF3) is comprised of parents/guardians and system partners as mandated by the PARC Consent Agreement (1972). The partners work together to facilitate free and appropriate education for children of all abilities. The Local Task Force meets on the first Wednesday of each month, excluding July, at 6:30 p.m. The meetings are held in-person at the AIU's main office and/or virtually. Visit LTF3.org for more information.

New Special Education Liaison Role-Alike Meetings

Contact: Brian Welles, 412-394-5732 • brian.welles@aiu3.net

The AIU holds meetings for new special education directors. These mentoring meetings have targeted special education topics and more in-depth information and discussions for new directors.

Special Education Liaison Role-Alike Meetings

Contact: James Palmiero, Ed.D., 412-394-5956 • james.palmiero@aiu3.net

The AIU holds regularly scheduled special education liaison role-alike meetings for district administrators. Information on relevant topics impacting special education is presented and discussed.

Supervisor Services

Contact: James Palmiero, Ed.D., 412-394-5956 • james.palmiero@aiu3.net

Brian Welles, 412-394-5732 • brian.welles@aiu3.net

Invoice Frequency: Annually, upon completion of service

The AIU supervisor services include supervision of experienced, certificated, and qualified professional staff (including teachers and clinicians) and experienced paraprofessional staff.

Transition Consultants

Contact: James Palmiero, Ed.D., 412-394-5956 • james.palmiero@aiu3.net

Brian Welles, 412-394-5732 • brian.welles@aiu3.net

Transition consultants provide coordinated services for youth (ages 14 to 21) with special needs to help them realize their post-secondary outcomes for further education, employment, and independent living in the community.

Travel Services

Contact: Brian Welles, 412-394-5732 • brian.welles@aiu3.net

Travel instruction is individualized instruction that teaches students with disabilities (other than blindness or visual impairment) the skills necessary to travel safely and efficiently within their home, school, place of employment, and community.

PRESCHOOL SERVICES

Preschool Early Intervention (PEI) Services

Contact: Melissa Friend, 412- 394-5961 • melissa.friend@aiu3.net
Loreleigh Elders, 412-394-5944 • loreleigh.elders@aiu3.net

The Preschool Early Intervention (PEI) program provides coaching support and services to families and children, from ages 3 to 5, with developmental delays and disabilities. Early intervention builds upon the natural learning opportunities that occur within the daily routines of a child and their family. The PEI program screens children and evaluates those who qualify for intervening services.

PUPIL SERVICES

Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)

Contact: Brian Welles, 412-394-5732 • brian.welles@aiu3.net

BCBAs provide direct services including observations and interviews resulting in the development of Functional Behavioral Assessments (FBA) and Positive Behavior Support Plans (PBSP). The services include related consultation and staff training specific to the ongoing maintenance of the support plans. As outlined by the Behavioral Analyst Certification Board, the AIU BCBAs can provide regular supervision for district-based Registered Behavior Technicians (RBT) staff.

BrainSTEPS Professional Development Services

Contact: Jamie Moder, 412-394-5822 • jamie.moder@aiu3.net

BrainSTEPS (Strategies Teaching Educators, Parents and Students) consultation provides training and technical assistance with all matters needed to support students with a brain injury. Consultation services include identification, school re-entry planning, IEP/504 Plan development, intervention selection and implementation, long-term monitoring of students, and other issues professionals face in supporting students with brain injury.

Bullying Prevention Program

Contact: Brian Welles, 412-394-5732 • brian.welles@aiu3.net

The AIU is available to train district staff in the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, a research-based, comprehensive approach to address bullying behavior. The program is focused on long-term change that creates a safe and positive school climate. The program is evidence-based and appropriate for use in elementary, middle, junior high, and high schools.

Crisis Response Team

Contact: Brian Welles, 412-877-9682 • brian.welles@aiu3.net

Licensed social workers and certified school psychologists who have training and experience in grief counseling provide short-term support and resources for LEAs that experience the tragic loss of a student, staff, or community member. Licensed social workers and certified school psychologists can provide support for other mental health providers who work within a district or lead the process. In addition, the department has resources including templated letters administrators can customize and use when communicating with families and community members in their catchments.

Psychological Services

Contact: Brian Welles, 412-394-5732 • brian.welles@aiu3.net

Pennsylvania-certified school psychologists provide psychological assessments and evaluations related to ability, achievement, and emotional status for students 3–21 years of age. Psychologists also provide functional behavioral assessments, counseling services, and crisis intervention.

Social Work Services

Contact: Brian Welles, 412-394-5732 • brian.welles@aiu3.net

Pennsylvania-licensed social workers act as a link among school, home, and community resources. In addition, social workers specialize in educational group work with students on topics such as grief, social skills, anger management, and problem solving.

Suicide Prevention Training

Contact: Brian Welles, 412-394-5732 • brian.welles@aiu3.net

AIU suicide prevention training is designed to help reduce suicide risks in students and increase their help-seeking behaviors. Students in grades 6–12 learn how to recognize the signs and symptoms of depression and other higher-risk mental illnesses. The training equips school faculty to better identify at-risk teens. The training protocol is grounded on the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's *More Than Sad* model.

SEEKS SES

Supporting the Expansion and Enhancement of K-12 School Based-Social and Emotional Supports (SEEKS SES) supports school districts in addressing social and emotional health.

Open Doors Podcast

Contact: Shannon Fagan, 412-909-7448 • shannon.fagan@aiu3.net

Open Doors is a podcast that explores the people, programs, and partnerships making a difference in students' lives. It builds on the AIU's approach to systems-level student support—shaped by SEEKS SES and lessons learned through the initiative, including the importance of coordinated partnerships, sustained adult learning, and proactive prevention. Learn more at aiu3.net/opendoors.

Preventing Risk through Education, Promoting Awareness, and Resilience in Youth (PREPaRE)

Contact: Shannon Fagan, 412-909-7448 • shannon.fagan@aiu3.net

PREPaRE is a structured program developed by the National Association of School Psychologists that focuses on crisis prevention, intervention, and recovery strategies for schools. PREPaRE trains school-based mental health professionals and other educators how to best fill the roles and responsibilities as members of school crisis response teams. PREPaRE is the only comprehensive, nationally available educator training curriculum developed by educators with firsthand experience and formal training in school crisis response. The PREPaRE curriculum includes two core non-sequential workshops that can be taken independently of one another.

Comprehensive School Safety Planning: Prevention Through Recovery

Contact: Aaron Skrbini, Ed.D., 412-394-5933 • aaron.skrbin@aiu3.net

Available November 2025: This one-day workshop for school mental health professionals, safety and security personnel, administrators, SROs, and other educators, is most effective when crisis team members attend together. Learn how to develop, integrate, and evaluate school safety/crisis teams/plans and how to address issues associated with the media, social media, communication, reunification, students with special needs, culture, and memorials. Training includes a strong focus on reinforcing improved school climate, student behavior and resilience, academic functioning, and school staff crisis response capabilities.

Mental Health Crisis Interventions: Responding to an Acute Traumatic Stressor in School

Contact: Shannon Fagan, 412-909-7448 • shannon.fagan@aiu3.net

Available November 2025: This two-day training is for all school professionals who provide mental health crisis intervention services and community mental health professionals who support schools following a crisis event. Learn how to prevent and prepare for psychological trauma, reaffirm both physical health and perceptions of safety, evaluate trauma exposure by conducting psychological triage, and respond to psychological needs using a multitiered crisis intervention approach. Participants will examine the effectiveness of school crisis intervention and recovery efforts and learn how to facilitate social supports and conduct caregiver trainings, classroom meetings, student psychoeducational groups, group crisis intervention, and individual crisis intervention.

Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR)

Contact: Shannon Fagan, 412-909-7448 • shannon.fagan@aiu3.net

This 1-2 hour interactive, best practices and evidence-based training helps guide participants on how to ask the suicide question, persuade the person to get help, and connect them to appropriate professionals. QPR is an educational program designed to teach lay and professional "gatekeepers" the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to respond. This training can be used with any audience, including educators, professionals in the child-serving system, community members, parents, and youth.

Sources of Strength Suicide Prevention

Contact: Shannon Fagan, 412-909-7448 • shannon.fagan@aiu3.net

Sources of Strength is an evidence-based prevention program that strengthens school culture by building resilience, connection, and help-seeking behaviors. Through Adult Advisor Training, staff learn how to mentor youth, model strengths-based language, and guide implementation. Peer Leader Training activates diverse students as positive influencers who lead campaigns promoting hope, help, and connection. Each school's rollout can be individualized, allowing campaigns, training structures, and support to be tailored to its unique needs and priorities.

Youth Mental Health First Aid (8-hour certification course)

Contact: Shannon Fagan, 412-909-7448 • shannon.fagan@aiu3.net

Youth Mental Health First Aid is an early intervention program that teaches participants to recognize signs of mental health or substance use challenges, respond with nonjudgmental support, and connect individuals to appropriate help. The course extends traditional first aid concepts to mental health, equipping those who work with youth to provide initial support during challenges or crises. It covers common conditions such as anxiety, depression, eating disorders, and ADHD, along with how to respond to a young person in crisis. Additional topics include trauma, substance use, self-care, and the effects of social media and bullying.

SPECIAL EDUCATION-RELATED SERVICES

BLIND/VISUALLY IMPAIRED SUPPORT PROGRAM

Assistive Technology Specialist

Contact: Jeanine Esch, 412-394-4538 • jeanine.esch@aiu3.net

Jennifer Pirring, 412-394-4630 • jennifer.pirring@aiu3.net

A teacher of the visually impaired with specialized training in vision assistive technology provides consultation, evaluation and recommendations to maximize access for classroom students who are blind/visually impaired. This professional supports IEP teams by developing AT action plans, making recommendations for purchase of technology and ongoing consultation.

Teachers of the Blind or Visually Impaired & Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialists

Contact: Jeanine Esch, 412-394-4538 • jeanine.esch@aiu3.net

The Blind/Visually Impaired Support Program (BVISP) provides specially designed instruction to students whose visual impairment adversely affects their educational performance. Teachers of the visually impaired provide instruction in the expanded core curriculum, including orientation and mobility, social interaction skills, independent living skills, recreation and leisure skills, career education, use of assistive technology, sensory efficiency skills and self-determination.

DEAF/HARD OF HEARING SUPPORT PROGRAM

Audiology

Contact: Jeanine Esch, 412-394-4538 • jeanine.esch@aiu3.net

Jennifer Pirring, 412-394-4630 • jennifer.pirring@aiu3.net

Licensed educational audiologists provide consultation and recommendations for educational accommodations to maximize auditory access for students in the classroom. These professionals provide educationally relevant assessments of student auditory functioning, hearing and listening levels. In addition, they evaluate, fit and monitor school-provided individual Hearing Assistive Technology (HAT) as prescribed by Pennsylvania State Licensure in Audiology.

Communication Access Services for Students with Hearing Loss

Contact: Jennifer Pirring, 412-394-4630 • jennifer.pirring@aiu3.net

Communication Access Services for students who are deaf or hard of hearing are available to school districts in Allegheny County. These services include educational sign language interpreters, communication support specialists and oral transliterators. Qualified service providers offer access to the educational curriculum and environment unique to the student's primary mode of communication (sign language, speech reading or print). State-registered interpreters are also available on an hourly basis for adults who are deaf or hard of hearing to enable their participation in district meetings and events in compliance with ADA regulations and Pennsylvania Act 57.

Deaf-Blind Resource Team

Contact: Jeanine Esch, 412-394-4538 • jeanine.esch@aiu3.net

The Deaf-Blind Resource Team (DBRT) provides technical assistance to IEP teams to better support students who are deaf-blind. Through a collaborative model, the DBRT provides training, professional development and resources for multi-disciplinary teams so they may meet the unique needs of learners with deaf-blindness. Members of the DBRT bring their collective skills, abilities and expertise from a wide range of disciplines.

Teachers of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

Contact: Jeanine Esch, 412-394-4538 • jeanine.esch@aiu3.net

Jennifer Pirring, 412-394-4630 • jennifer.pirring@aiu3.net

The Deaf/Hard of Hearing Support Program provides specially designed instruction to students who exhibit a mild to profound hearing loss that interferes with the development of language and communication and impacts their ability to achieve educational potential. Certified teachers of the deaf/hard of hearing provide instruction and support for students in developing auditory, language, speech reading, literacy and self-advocacy skills as well as academic support in an inclusive educational program. The goal of this program is to effectively educate students with hearing loss, to the greatest extent possible, in regular education environments.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY/PHYSICAL THERAPY (OT/PT) SUPPORT PROGRAM

Occupational Therapy

Contact: Holly McElhinny, 412-394-5503 • holly.mcelhinny@aiu3.net

Occupational therapists and assistants are part of the educational team within the school setting. Therapists work with students to develop their fine-motor, visual-motor and sensory processing skills through direct intervention and collaboration with school personnel and by recommending strategies and modifications within the school environment.

Physical Therapy

Contact: Holly McElhinny, 412-394-5503 • holly.mcelhinny@aiu3.net

Physical therapists and assistants are part of the educational team within the school setting. Therapists work with students to develop their gross-motor skills, mobility and physical accessibility through direct intervention and collaboration with school personnel. Physical therapists also recommend strategies and modifications within the school environment.

Supervision & Consultation

Contact: Holly McElhinny, 412-394-5503 • holly.mcelhinny@aiu3.net

Mary Grassi, 412-394-5479 • mary.grassi@aiu3.net

The AIU's director and supervisor of occupational and physical therapy services provide support and oversight of AIU therapists delivering the related services within the school setting. Additional services include expert consultation, administrative support, assessments and recommendations regarding potential legal issues, and professional development for school staff.

SPEECH/LANGUAGE IMPAIRED SUPPORT PROGRAM

Auditory Processing Disorders (APD) Evaluation Team

Contact: Thomas Rea, 412-394-5826 • thomas.rea@aiu3.net

Auditory processing is the ability to accurately recognize and interpret the spoken word or auditory signal and demonstrate comprehension by providing an appropriate and timely response. The APD Evaluation Team's assessment includes an evaluation of records, testing, student observations, a parent interview and a speech and language evaluation. The outcomes of the assessment can include adaptations to the educational environment and consultation services to the team.

Diagnostic Consultation

Contact: Thomas Rea, 412-394-5826 • thomas.rea@aiu3.net

AIU speech language pathologists offer diagnostic and therapeutic expert consultation in areas of speech/language concerns. Speech and language diagnosticians are available to provide assessments and issue a report for students with speech and language impairments when an evaluation independent of the school district is requested. The diagnosticians can also be requested by school districts to offer second opinions on difficult cases.

Feeding & Swallowing Technical Support Team

Contact: Thomas Rea, 412-394-5826 • thomas.rea@aiu3.net

When children are unable to eat due to physical or behavioral conditions, serious health problems can result. The Feeding & Swallowing Team can provide trainings, treatment and consultative services for students K–21 years of age throughout Allegheny County.

Professional Development in Speech/Language Therapy

Contact: Thomas Rea, 412-394-5826 • thomas.rea@aiu3.net

Allegheny County SLPs have the option of participating in professional development by the AIU Speech Department to earn ASHA credit. The Speech Department also customizes training to meet the needs of districts.

Speech/Language Impaired Support Program

Contact: Thomas Rea, 412-394-5826 • thomas.rea@aiu3.net

Speech language pathologists provide specially designed instruction to students whose impairment of language, voice, fluency or articulation is present to such a degree that academic achievement is affected and the condition is significantly handicapping to the student.

Supervision of Clinical Fellowship Year

Contact: Eileen Cirelli, 412-394-5823 • eileen.cirelli@aiu3.net

The AIU Speech Department offers supervision of speech language pathologists seeking the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC). Supervision includes three hours of direct observation and three hours of indirect observation per month.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMS

Contact: James Palmiero, Ed.D., 412-394-5956 • james.palmiero@aiu3.net

Invoice Frequency: In accordance with Addendum A, Section 4 of the AIU Services Agreement

For those special education students whose educational needs are more complex, the AIU offers three school-based programs. The school-based programs provide a safe, secure, and challenging learning environment that facilitates academic, social, behavioral, emotional, and vocational development that supports successful transition from school to adult living. The school-based programs are open to students from any local education agencies but are operated in facilities owned by a special school jointure comprised of member districts.

Mon Valley School

Principal: Richard Dowell, Ed.D.
412-469-2551
richard.dowell@aiu3.net

Pathfinder School

Principal: Renee Kozusko
412-394-6751
renee.kozusko@aiu3.net

Sunrise School

Principal: David Campos
724-325-1132
david.campos@aiu3.net

Southeast Area

Special School Jointure

Baldwin-Whitehall, Brentwood Borough, Clairton City, Duquesne City, Elizabeth Forward, South Allegheny, South Park, Steel Valley, West Jefferson Hills, West Mifflin Area

South Central Area

Special School Jointure

Bethel Park, Carlynton, Chartiers Valley, Mt. Lebanon, Upper St. Clair

Eastern Area

Special School Jointure

Allegheny Valley, East Allegheny, Gateway, Riverview, Wilkinsburg, Woodland Hills

2026-2027 SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMS PRICING		
Mon Valley School*	\$ Annual	\$ Per Day
Autistic Support (Tuition) [†]	61,000	338/day
Emotional Support (Tuition) [†]	61,000	338/day
Life Skills Support (Tuition) [†]	61,000	338/day
Personal Care Assistant	40,500	224/day
Vocational Program, Part-Time	10,000	56/day
Pathfinder School	\$ Annual	\$ Per Day
Autistic Support (Tuition) [†]	69,500	384/day
Life Skills Support (Tuition) [†]	69,500	384/day
Multi-Disabilities Support (Tuition) [†]	69,500	384/day
Personal Care Assistant	40,500	224/day
PRIDE Program (Tuition) [†]	50,500	280/day
Vocational Program, Part-Time Only	10,000	56/day
Sunrise School	\$ Annual	\$ Per Day
Autistic Support (Tuition) [†]	60,000	332/day
Learning Support (Tuition) [†]	52,500	291/day
Life Skills Support (Tuition) [†]	52,500	291/day
Multi-Disabilities Support (Tuition) [†]	60,000	332/day
Personal Care Assistant	40,500	224/day
PRIDE Program (Tuition) [†]	50,500	280/day
Vocational Program, Part-Time Only	10,000	56/day

The AIU charges tuition rates for each student enrolled in the AIU school-based program.

Costs for related services are additional. See the Special Education-Related Services section on pages 36-38 for more information.

A building usage fee is assessed by the special school jointure for students who are not from the member districts. The building usage fee is not reflected in the AIU's tuition rates. Contact the school's principal for more information.

* All full-time secondary students enrolled in Mon Valley School participate in the school's vocational program and are assessed an additional \$2,900 for costs.

† Full-time tuition rate

Autistic Support

See page 31 for contact, pricing and invoice frequency information.

The AIU's school-based autistic support services provide specially designed instruction for students who need a program that is highly structured with a special emphasis on communication and behavior. The program focuses on a strong speech and language component, which encourages the development of independence and self-sufficiency in the areas of community-based instruction skills, functional skills, vocational skills, and leisure and social skills.

Emotional Support

See page 31 for contact, pricing and invoice frequency information.

The AIU's school-based emotional support services provide a structured behaviorally and emotionally enhanced approach for students who demonstrate a pattern of behaviors that may include poor attendance, aggression toward others, withdrawal, poor peer/adult relationships, and who may have court involvement. Some students may have diagnosed emotional disorders that need to be supported through coping strategies and self-monitoring. The primary goal of the program is to teach students the appropriate behaviors necessary to return to their home school.

Learning Support

See page 31 for contact, pricing and invoice frequency information.

The AIU's school-based learning support services provide standards-based, specially designed instruction for students who require modifications and adaptations to the general education curriculum. Additionally, students are provided with support in learning, behavioral, and social skills.

Life Skills Support

See page 31 for contact, pricing and invoice frequency information.

The AIU's school-based life skills support services provide standard-aligned specially designed instruction for students who require significant modifications and adaptations to the general education curriculum. Additionally, students are provided with support in learning, behavioral, and social skills.

Multi-Disabilities Support

See page 31 for contact, pricing and invoice frequency information.

The AIU's school-based multi-disabilities support services provide specially designed instruction for students who have two or more disabilities that may include complex medical needs requiring the integration of related services, including OT/PT, vision, hearing, and/or speech and language support. Students may also require support in the development of their personal and social skills.

PRIDE Program

See page 31 for contact, pricing and invoice frequency information.

PRIDE is a vocationally oriented transition program for students ages 18–21 with mild to moderate special needs. PRIDE focuses on Personal maintenance, Recreation and leisure opportunities, Independence in the community, Domestic living skills, and Employment and training opportunities. The program provides an intense training experience through community-based opportunities.

Vocational Programs

See page 31 for contact, pricing and invoice frequency information.

The AIU offers vocationally oriented programs where students learn pre-vocational skills that focus on specific areas of employment. Through instruction in our specially designed and outfitted workshops, on-site warehouses, and vocational-based classrooms, students learn specific employment skills that are valuable in community-based settings. Programs vary by school. Contact the school principal for more information.

Student Programs

At the AIU, we believe that learning is a life-long activity. Not all learning takes place in a traditional classroom – learning can happen anywhere. At the AIU, we meet students where they are, and support them as they reach towards their goals.

ACADEMIC EVENTS

Academic Events

Contact: Courtney Stein, 412-394-4193 • courtney.stein@aiu3.net

The AIU provides various academic competitions for elementary and secondary students. Events that are held on a yearly basis include the History Bowl (with Heinz History Center), CalcuSolve, and Children's Choice Awards. These events allow students to build on their classroom experiences and see how their learning fits into the real world.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Early Childhood Education Services

The AIU's early childhood education programs are designed to teach children under age 5 the skills they need to succeed in kindergarten.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)

Curriculum Review Process

Contact: Kelly Noyes, Ed.D., 412-394-5926 • kelly.noyes@aiu3.net

In the curriculum review process, staff suggest new scopes and sequences to parallel a district curriculum plan. In this process, districts may choose to focus on the alignment of ESL curriculum and instruction to state standards—or on making content area curriculum accessible to English language learners in the district.

Direct Instruction Model

Contact: Kelly Noyes, Ed.D., 412-394-5926 • kelly.noyes@aiu3.net

The K–12 English as a Second Language (ESL) program provides standards-aligned English language development instruction to students who come to us from all over the world. Students are provided with direct daily instruction in English with research-based curriculum specifically designed for the language acquisition process. All teachers are specifically trained and certified to provide this core content instruction.

State Monitoring, Program Monitoring & Evaluation

Contact: Kelly Noyes, Ed.D., 412-394-5926 • kelly.noyes@aiu3.net

The AIU ESL program provides assistance to districts preparing for state monitoring. All program compliance issues are reviewed with districts to assure that the district meets or exceeds the state's criteria.

Student Evaluations & Proficiency Testing

Contact: Charlene Byrd, 412-394-3637 • charlene.byrd@aiu3.net

The K–12 ESL Program provides individual student evaluations using the WIDA screener for initial screening and placement. The test is also used for the administration of the state-mandated ACCESS for English Language Learners language proficiency assessment administered yearly in Pennsylvania.

Student Exiting/Monitoring Process

Contact: Charlene Byrd, 412-394-363 • charlene.byrd@aiu3.net

This service facilitates the paperwork and compliance checks for students who have exited an ESL instructional program for two academic years.

Supervisor Services

Contact: Kelly Noyes, Ed.D., 412-394-5926 • kelly.noyes@aiu3.net

School districts operating their own ESL programs may contract for supervisory services. The ESL Program tailors its services to meet school district needs and takes into consideration the extent of services required and the amount of time a school district may need supervision.

NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Non-Public Schools Program (NPSP)

Contact: Kelly Noyes, Ed.D., 412-394-5926 • kelly.noyes@aiu3.net

The Non-Public Schools Program provides high-quality auxiliary Act 89 services for students attending K–12 non-public schools. The mission of the NPSP is to provide support, resources, consultation, and solutions to students, schools, and families so non-public school students have every opportunity to maximize their academic potential.

Title I Non-Public Schools Program

Contact: Nicole Belcher, 412-394-4911 • nicole.belcher@aiu3.net

The AIU Non-Public Schools Program offers comprehensive Title I services. School districts may contract with the AIU to provide Title I non-public school services that meet all federal requirements.

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Preschool Early Intervention (PEI) Services

See page 26 for more information.

The Preschool Early Intervention (PEI) program provides coaching support and services to families and children, from ages 3 to 5, with developmental delays and disabilities. Early intervention builds upon the natural learning opportunities that occur within the daily routines of a child and their family. The PEI program screens children and evaluates those who qualify for intervening services.

Pupil Services

See pages 26 for more information.

Certified professionals in the AIU's Pupil Services support school districts in maximizing the educational experience of all students. All department members have extensive experience working with students, families, and school staff in areas that impact student learning.

Special Education-Related Services

See pages 28-30 for more information.

For more than 50 years, the AIU has offered a variety of unique, child-focused special education services for students with special needs. Our caring staff of qualified teachers, therapists, and paraprofessionals foster students' success by tailoring services to meet each student's individualized needs. We serve students ages 3 to 21 who have developmental delays, moderate to significant disabilities, and/or require related services to access the general education curriculum.

Special Education School-Based Programs

See page 31 for contact information.

For those special education students whose educational needs are more complex, the AIU offers three school-based programs. The school-based programs provide a safe, secure, and challenging learning environment that facilitates academic, social, behavioral, emotional, and vocational development that supports successful transition from school to adult living. The school-based programs are open to students from any local education agencies but are operated in facilities owned by a special school jointure comprised of member districts.

VIRTUAL & HYBRID LEARNING

Waterfront Learning

Contact: Jill Manczka, Ed.D., 412-394-1378 • jill.manczka@aiu3.net

Cost: Varies. Please contact for more information.

Invoice Frequency: Quarterly, upon completion of service

Waterfront Learning provides affordable K–12 virtual and hybrid educational options for school districts. Implementation is designed to meet the diverse needs of educational entities by providing full-time and part-time services to personalize learning pathways for all students. Secondary academics focus on core content, comprehensive world languages, STEM, advanced placement, dual credit, credit recovery, Keystone remediation, and career readiness. The K–6 elementary program provides core, elective language options, and gifted/talented course offerings. Districts also contract for curriculum expansion, supplemental academic support products, intervention tools, participation of students with special needs, alternative education environments, hardware/internet allocation, hybrid learning planning, and professional development services.

**ALLEGHENY INTERMEDIATE UNIT
COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES AGREEMENT – 2026-2027**

This Comprehensive Services Agreement (“Agreement”) is made this 1st day of July, 2026 (the “Effective Date”), by and between the ALLEGHENY INTERMEDIATE UNIT (“AIU”), and the _____ (“District/School”) (collectively, “Parties”).

WHEREAS, the AIU is a regional education service agency that provides specialized services to Allegheny County’s 42 suburban school districts, five career and technical schools, charter schools and numerous other organizations throughout the area; and

WHEREAS, the District/School wishes to receive certain services from the AIU in exchange for agreed-upon fees; and

WHEREAS, this Agreement does not obligate the District/School to purchase any particular service from the AIU, but pertains to services that the District/School chooses to receive.

NOW, THEREFORE, for good and adequate consideration and with the intent to be legally bound, the Parties agree as follows.

1. **Scope.** The terms of this Agreement, while in effect, shall apply to the AIU’s provision of services to the District/School and shall be deemed to be incorporated into all of the Parties’ contemporaneous and subsequent agreements through which the AIU provides services and the District/School receives such services. To the extent the terms of this Agreement and those of a contemporaneous or subsequent agreement conflict, the terms of the other agreement shall control.
2. **Duration.** This Agreement shall commence as of the Effective Date and shall remain in effect through June 30, 2027, subject to prior termination in accordance with Paragraph 13 hereof.
3. **Services Guide; Pricing.** It is agreed that services provided by the AIU are rendered throughout the school year and that the AIU periodically invoices for fees for services provided to the District/School as outlined in the AIU’s 2026-2027 Services Guide (“Services Guide”). Fees for programs not listed in the Services Guide will be determined on a case-by-case basis, subject to approval of an addendum or other written agreement by the governing boards of the District/School and the AIU (each a “Services Addendum”). By executing this Agreement, the District/School explicitly acknowledges receipt of the Services Guide and expressly accepts the pricing schedule for all of the services listed therein.
4. **Invoicing; Payment.** By accepting the services provided by the AIU, the District/School agrees to pay for those services at the prices specified in the Services Guide no later than sixty (60) days from the invoice date. The AIU may apply a late payment charge of 1% per month on any unpaid balance more than sixty (60) days past due and not disputed in good faith, retroactive to the invoice date.

The District/School will be invoiced in accordance with the Services Guide. It is agreed that the District/School will be invoiced for all programs and services provided and utilized by

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Allegheny Intermediate Unit Comprehensive Services Agreement – 2026-2027

each student. Any delay in invoicing by the AIU will not affect the duty of the District/School to pay the invoice for the services received. The District/School agrees that a failure or delay in invoicing shall not constitute a waiver of the right of the AIU to be paid in full for services received by the District/School.

To ensure that the cost of services is properly allocated among districts, as well as the accuracy of each AIU invoice, the District/School understands and agrees that it is responsible to review all invoices when received; to audit the invoices to ensure that they accurately reflect the services received for each student identified; and to verify whether each student resided in the district being charged for services during that billing period.

The District/School agrees to pay the AIU the price for each program or service requested by the District/School as listed in the Services Guide or Services Addendum. Further, in the event schools are closed on account of contagious disease, the destruction or damage of a school building by fire or other causes during the term of this Agreement, the District/School agrees to pay the AIU the greater of (1) an amount necessary to pay the salaries and fringe benefits of the teachers, as defined by the Public School Code, engaged by the AIU to provide services to the District/School as requested or (2) such amount required by the Public School Code, as it may be amended, or other applicable law.

5. **Special Education Services.** Any special education services requested by the District/School and provided by the AIU shall be governed by Addendum A: Special Education Services, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as though set forth in full.

6. **Compliance With Applicable Law.** The AIU shall ensure that its services comply with all requirements of Pennsylvania and federal law, to the extent such compliance does not depend upon the performance or actions of any other individual or entity beyond the control of the AIU. The AIU represents and warrants that it and its employees, agents or personnel providing services pursuant to the terms of this Agreement possess the skills, qualifications, experience, licenses and certifications necessary to perform adequately such services. The AIU shall comply with all federal and Pennsylvania laws regarding the confidentiality of educational records of District/School students, including but not limited to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, [20 U.S.C. § 1232g](#), and its implementing regulations ([34 C.F.R. Part 99](#)) and [22 Pa. Code §§ 12.31-12.33](#). The District/School shall provide such action, assistance or cooperation as required to ensure that students receive services in compliance with state and federal law.

7. **Clearances.** With respect to all individuals providing services to the District/School on behalf of the AIU except those having no direct contact with children, the AIU shall ensure that such individuals provide to the AIU the following clearances in accordance with legal requirements:

- a. A Pennsylvania State Police report of criminal history record information as required by Act 34, [24 P.S. § 1-111\(b\)](#);
- b. A Federal criminal history record as required by Act 114, [24 P.S. § 1-111\(c.1\)](#); and
- c. A certification from the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services as to whether the individual is named as an alleged perpetrator or perpetrator of child abuse, as required by Act 151, [23 Pa. C.S. § 6344\(a.1\)](#), [\(b.2\)](#).

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Further, the AIU shall ensure that it and such individuals shall comply with the employment history review provisions of Act 168, [24 P.S. § 1-111.1](#), and the child abuse recognition and reporting training requirements of Act 126, [24 P.S. § 12-1205.6](#). If the AIU receives notice of an arrest or conviction of an AIU employee assigned to provide services to the District/School and such arrest or conviction was required by law to be reported to the AIU, the AIU shall report such arrest or conviction in writing to the District/School.

8. **Relationship of the Parties.** The Parties acknowledge that the AIU is an independent contractor of the District/School and that all individuals providing services under this Agreement are employees or independent contractors of the AIU and not of the District/School. Nothing contained in this Agreement will be deemed to create an employment, agency, joint venture or partnership relationship between the District/School and the AIU or any of their respective agents or employees, or any other legal arrangement that would impose liability upon one party for an act or a failure to act of the other party. Neither the District/School nor the AIU will have any express or implied power to enter into any contracts or commitments or to incur any liabilities in the name of, or on behalf of, the other party, or to bind the other party in any respect whatsoever without the other party's prior written consent.

9. **Liabilities.** Subject to any immunities provided by the Political Subdivision Tort Claims Act or other law, the Parties agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless each other, their respective directors, officers, employees and agents, against all claims, damages, losses, or penalties that result from the acts or omissions of their own employees or agents, any real property owned or leased by such party, or the operation or maintenance of any equipment or vehicles provided or used by such party. The Parties agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless each other against all claims, damages, losses, or penalties resulting from any judicial, administrative or other determination that any staff member of one party hereto is an employee or agent of the other party hereto.

10. **No Third-Party Beneficiaries.** This Agreement is entered into for the sole benefit of the District/School and the AIU. No other parties are intended to be direct or incidental beneficiaries of this Agreement, and no third party shall have any right in, under or to this Agreement.

11. **Assignment.** Neither this Agreement nor any of the rights, benefits or obligations hereunder may be assigned or delegated (whether by operation of law or otherwise) without the prior written consent of the other party.

12. **Force majeure.** The AIU will not be liable for any failure or delay in performing an obligation under this Agreement that is due to any of the following causes, to the extent beyond its reasonable control: acts of God, accident, riots, war, terrorist act, epidemic, pandemic, quarantine, civil commotion, natural catastrophes, governmental acts or omissions, changes in laws or regulations, national strikes, fire, explosion or generalized lack of availability of energy.

13. **Termination.** If the District/School intends to discontinue a service provided by AIU certificated staff, causing the District/School to assume responsibility for a transferred class or program, the District/School shall notify the AIU of its intent by March 31, 2027, so that the Parties may evaluate potential transfer-of-entities issues. Otherwise, either party may terminate this Agreement and any services provided hereunder upon at least 60 days' prior written notice to the other party, unless alternative termination requirements are stated in a

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Allegheny Intermediate Unit Comprehensive Services Agreement – 2026-2027

Services Addendum. Individual services provided hereunder may be terminated with less than 60 days' notice if mandated by an Individualized Education Program ("IEP") or an order of a hearing officer, the Secretary of Education or a court of competent jurisdiction.

14. **Governing Law; Venue.** This Agreement shall be construed and governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Jurisdiction and venue for all purposes shall be in courts of competent jurisdiction sitting in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

15. **Interpretation.** In any proceeding of any type or kind in which this Agreement or its terms shall be reviewed, construed, or brought into issue in any manner, the Parties hereby agree that this Agreement shall be construed as if jointly prepared, written and typed by the Parties. It is agreed that the covenants of this Agreement are severable, and that if any word, phrase, clause(s), sentence(s), paragraph(s) shall be found unenforceable, the entire Agreement shall not fail but shall be construed and enforced without the severed language in accordance with the tenor of this Agreement.

16. **Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which, when executed and delivered, shall be deemed an original and all of which, taken together, shall constitute one and the same instrument, even though both Parties are not signatories to the original or the same counterpart. Furthermore, the Parties may execute and deliver this Agreement by electronic means. Each of the Parties agrees that the delivery of the Agreement by electronic means will have the same force and effect as delivery of original signatures and that each of the Parties may use such electronic signatures as evidence of the execution and delivery of the Agreement by both Parties to the same extent as an original signature.

17. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement and understanding between the AIU and the District/School concerning the programs and services to which it applies; supersedes all prior or contemporaneous agreements and understandings, written or oral, with respect to the subject matter hereof; and shall be modified only in a writing approved by the Parties' respective governing boards.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have signed this Agreement on the dates shown below, intending to be legally bound hereby.

ALLEGHENY INTERMEDIATE UNIT

DISTRICT/SCHOOL

By: _____
President, Board of Directors

By: _____
President, Board of Directors

Attest:

Attest:

By: _____
Secretary, Board of Directors

By: _____
Secretary, Board of Directors

Date: _____

Date: _____

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**ALLEGHENY INTERMEDIATE UNIT
COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES AGREEMENT – 2026-2027**

**ADDENDUM A:
SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES**

1. **Services Provided.** For the 2026-2027 school year, the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) shall provide and operate, for the benefit of students assigned by the District/School, the special education services and programs delineated in the AIU Special Education Plan (“Plan”), as approved by the Department of Education, by furnishing the following:
- a. Professional and support staff, as required to implement the Plan in accordance with all applicable provisions of state and federal law;
 - b. Administrative, supervisory and clerical staff as required to effectively and efficiently implement the Plan and this Agreement;
 - c. Such supplies, equipment and other materials as necessary to implement the Plan and as mutually agreed upon by the Parties;
 - d. Such classrooms and facilities as required to implement the Plan in accordance with state and federal law, to the extent the program or service is provided or operated upon premises not owned or leased by the District/School; and
 - e. Any other personnel, facility, material or service mutually agreed upon by the Parties, subject to approval by their respective governing boards.

Services provided include but are not limited to those outlined in the Services Guide, such as Blind/Visually Impaired Services; Career Development Services; Deaf/Hard of Hearing Services; School-Based Educational Services at the AIU-operated Mon Valley, Pathfinder and Sunrise Schools; Speech/Language-Impaired Support; Pupil Personnel Services; and Occupational and Physical Therapy.

2. **Programs Provided on District/School Premises.** For special education programs and services provided by the AIU on premises owned or leased by the District/School, the District/School shall provide the following:
- a. Classroom and other space necessary for the provision of services;
 - b. Assistance, cooperation and participation of District/School administrative, professional and support staff in the development and implementation of accommodations, supplementary aids and support services necessary to include, to the fullest extent appropriate, students assigned to special education programs in educational and extracurricular activities, regular education support, regular education instruction, and ancillary services, such as nursing, counseling, library,

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Allegheny Intermediate Unit Comprehensive Services Agreement – 2026-2027

Addendum A: Special Education Services

physical education, food, custodial and maintenance services, as necessary to meet the needs of the students assigned to the program; and

- c. Any other personnel, facility, material or service mutually agreed upon by the Parties, subject to approval from their respective governing boards.

3. Multidisciplinary Evaluation and IEP Development.

- a. **For Students Receiving AIU Services on District Premises.** The District/School, in cooperation with the AIU, shall conduct student Multidisciplinary Evaluations (“MDEs”) and Re-evaluations (“RRs”) and develop Individualized Education Programs (“IEPs”) and revise those plans as necessary for exceptional and thought-to-be exceptional students of the District/School. The District/School will provide the AIU staff with an opportunity to participate in the development of RR and IEPs.

- b. **For Students Receiving Services in AIU-Operated Schools.** The AIU, with cooperation and participation by the District/School, shall conduct student MDEs and RR and develop IEPs and revision procedures for exceptional and thought-to-be exceptional students of the District/School. The District/School recognizes that it remains the Local Education Agency (“LEA”) for the student and is responsible for ensuring that the student’s IEP provides for a free appropriate public education (“FAPE”). Therefore, the District/School will participate in the development of MDEs, RR and IEPs that outline specially designed instruction, accommodations and supplementary aids and services for students. The AIU shall monitor students’ progress toward their IEP goals as required in an IEP and provide the District/School with quarterly progress reports.

- c. **For All Students Receiving AIU Services.** Specially designed instruction, accommodations, supplementary aids and services required by any IEP or any order of a hearing officer, appeals panel, the Secretary of Education or court and beyond the scope of the programs and services enumerated in the Plan shall be provided as mutually agreed upon by the Parties, subject to approval by their respective governing boards. In such instances, the AIU administration will work with the District/School, which in all circumstances remains the LEA, in identifying the appropriate service. The District/School agrees that the AIU shall not be liable to the District/School on account of a hearing officer’s or court’s determination that an IEP does not provide FAPE. The District/School understands, accepts and acknowledges that the contractual relationship between the AIU and the District/School does not place any duties that are borne by the LEA onto the AIU, which is a contracted service provider.

- 4. **Nature of Relationship.** Regardless of the location of services received by District/School students, whether on District/School premises or at an AIU-operated school, the District/School acknowledges and agrees that the AIU does not have authority or responsibility as an LEA, as that duty and authority rests solely with the

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Allegheny Intermediate Unit Comprehensive Services Agreement – 2026-2027

Addendum A: Special Education Services

District/School where the student is enrolled. Any liability that may arise as a result of failure to provide due process or FAPE rests solely with the District/School. The AIU has the right to accept or reject students enrolled at a District/School who are referred for placement at an AIU-operated school. Upon accepting a student to an AIU-operated school, the AIU will implement the student’s IEP as written.

5. **Tuition; Fees for Speech, Hearing and Vision Services.** Tuition for the AIU-Operated Special Education Schools and fees for speech, hearing and vision services will be invoiced and paid in installments according to the schedule below:

Invoice Date	Services Billed: School Tuition and Fees for Speech, Hearing and Vision	Based on Data* As Of
September 15, 2026	Services anticipated for August through October	September 1, 2026
November 16, 2026	Services anticipated for November through December, <i>plus adjustments relative to September billing</i>	November 1, 2026
January 15, 2027	Services anticipated for January through February, <i>plus adjustments relative to November billing</i>	January 1, 2027
March 15, 2027	Services anticipated for March through April, <i>plus adjustments relative to January billing</i>	March 1, 2027
May 17, 2027	Services anticipated for May through June, <i>plus adjustments relative to March billing</i>	May 1, 2027
June 15, 2027	Final invoice reconciling payments with the actual final 2026-2027 special education database, verified in June; may result in a credit to the District/School or payment due to the AIU, exclusive of the special education school reconciliation.	June 2027

* Refers to student information in the AIU special education database.

NOTE: Services requested by the District/School after the review of the special education database as of September may result in additional invoices.

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For Review Only

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6. **Reconciliation for AIU-Operated Special Education Schools.** Because of the fluctuating nature of student enrollment at the AIU-operated special education schools, it is agreed that the overall operating cost for each school will be continuously monitored to determine whether revenue and expenses are in alignment with budgeted projections. The parties agree that at the conclusion of the 2026-2027 school year, the AIU will perform a reconciliation of its special education school revenues and expenses for the entire school year. If the AIU revenues from the school programs provided under this Agreement exceed the expenses incurred in providing such services, the District/School will receive a pro-rata credit; if the AIU’s expenses incurred in its school programs exceed the revenues received by the AIU, the District/School will be responsible for and pay to the AIU a pro-rata share of the excess expenses. The reconciliation process will be conducted as follows:

Date	AIU-Operated Special Education School Review and Reconciliation
August 16, 2027	Final reconciliation of revenues and expenses for the entire school year will be completed and issued to the District/School. This may result in a credit to the District/School or payment due the AIU
December 31, 2027	District/School payment to the AIU for the pro-rata share of excess expenses, and/or ...
January 31, 2028	AIU credit issued to the District/School for the pro-rata share of excess revenues

Any District/School due to receive a reconciliation credit and having open balances payable to the AIU greater than 60 days past due will have the credit applied to open balances or withheld until payment is received, as appropriate.



Serving Every Learner

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