

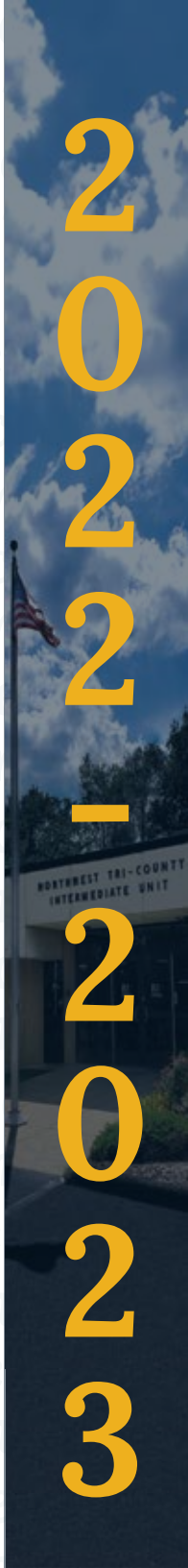


Commitment in Action:

*How IU5 Expanded Excellence, Ensured Equity,
Enabled Opportunities This Year*

Annual Report

2
0
2
2
-
2
0
2
3



nce, equity, opportunities, excellence,
equity, opportunities, excellence, eq
nce, equity, opportunities, excellenc
equity, opportunities, excellence, eq
, opportunities, **excellence**, equity, op
equity, opportunities, excellence, eq
nce, equity, opportunities, excellence
equity, opportunities, excellence, eq
nce, equity, **opportunities**, excellenc
equity, opportunities, excellence, eq
ty, opportunities, excellence, equity,
equity, opportunities, excellence, eq
unities, excellence, **equity**, excellenc
equity, opportunities, excellence, eq
nce, equity, opportunities, excellenc
equity, opportunities, excellence, eq
ty, opportunities, excellence, equity,
equity, opportunities, excellence, eq
nce, equity, opportunities, excellence
equity, opportunities, excellence, eq
nce, equity, opportunities, excellenc
equity, opportunities, excellence, eq
ty, opportunities, excellence, equity,
equity, opportunities, excellence, eq



Table of

Contents

- 1** Mission & Vision
- 2** Board of Directors
- 3** Administrative Staff
- 4** Executive Director's Message
- 5** Yearly Goals
- 6** Annie Sullivan Award
- 8** C.L.A.S.S. ACT
- 9** Leadership
- 10** Fiscal Data
- 11** Human Resources
- 13** Safe2Say Something
- 14** School Improvement Services
- 21** Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment
- 22** Special Education
- 25** Innovative Technology Solutions

Who We Are

What is an Intermediate Unit?

Intermediate units are entrepreneurial, highly skilled, technology-rich, and agile providers of cost-effective, instructional, and operational services to school districts, charter schools, and over 2,400 non-public and private schools. Additionally, intermediate units are direct providers of quality instruction to over 50,000 Pennsylvania students.

Over the years, intermediate units have responded to a wide array of needs as they developed in schools and communities throughout the state. Today, intermediate units continue to fulfill their mission of service by addressing traditional and emerging needs, serving as essential links for learning in Pennsylvania, and as a liaison between local schools and the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Pennsylvania's 29 intermediate units were established in 1971 by the Pennsylvania General Assembly to operate as regional educational service agencies to provide cost-effective, management-efficient programs to Pennsylvania school districts.

Our Mission

IU5 provides excellence, equity, and opportunities.

Our Vision

Creating future-ready, self-empowered individuals and families for lifelong learning.

Our Values

Learning is a partnership among schools, families, and communities. All students can learn. Diversity must be recognized and valued. Our school districts' needs and PDE directives shape our IU and its work. Change is inevitable. Transparency in operations is paramount. Learning is a life-long process. We value: Equity, Opportunity, and Self-empowerment.



Board of Directors

Dr. Doris Gernovich	Corry Area
Mrs. Dorothy Luckock	Conneaut
Mr. Bryan Miller	Crawford Central
Ms. Gwendolyn Cooley	Erie Public Schools
Mrs. Fran New	Fairview
Mr. Jeremy Makham	Fort Leboeuf
Mr. Brad Patullo	General McLane
Mr. Joseph Meka	Girard
Mr. Dave Vrenna	Harbor Creek
Mrs. Rita Nicolussi	Iroquois
Mr. Gary Winschel	Millcreek Township
Dr. Jane Blystone	North East
Mrs. Kristy Bolte	Northwestern
Mr. Robert Johnston	Penncrest
Mr. George Trauner	Union City Area
Mr. Paul Mangione, V.P.	Warren County
Dr. Andrew Pushchak, Board President	Wattsburg Area

Administrative Staff



Bradley Whitman
Executive Director



Raina George
Board Secretary /
Executive Assistant



Vince Humes
Director of Innovative
Technology Solutions



Mary Eckart
Director of Financial
Services



Christine Carucci
Director of Special
Education Services



Kirk Shimshock
Director of State &
Federal Programs



Yvonne Teed
Director of School
Improvement Services



Sally Daehnke
Director of Human
Resources

A Message from the Executive Director

In 1971, Act 102 was signed into law by the Pennsylvania legislature, creating 29 intermediate units in the Commonwealth. From day one, intermediate units have been assigned to provide the support services necessary to improve the state system of education for children in both public and nonpublic schools. IU5 primarily serves the 17 public school districts, charter and non-public programs in Crawford, Erie and Warren counties. Since 2017, we have been expanding our services outside of the tri-county region as we have several programs that serve 6 and 7 counties each and one program based here in Edinboro that services students and families in 30 counties across Pennsylvania.



With an unwavering commitment to education, we proudly offer over 130 programs tailored to empower learners of all ages across the tri-county region.

IU5 is proud of the many partnerships we have developed over time with public, charter schools, nonpublic schools, and county agencies, other intermediate units, institutions of higher education, PDE, other educational organizations, business, and industry, as well as many parent groups throughout the region.

Included in this our annual report are highlights for the 2022-2023 school year. With an unwavering commitment to education, we proudly offer over 130 programs tailored to empower learners of all ages across the tri-county region.

In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, we stepped up as crucial intermediaries between the Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Our collaborative efforts with the tri-county region led to the creation of innovative continuity of education plans, showcasing our adaptability and dedication.



Our areas of focus for 2022-2023 from the **Executive Director**

At IU5, transformation is the norm, because we are driven by our funding sources which include federal, state, and local sources, channeled through grants, state initiatives, and service fees. Embracing change, we respond effectively to evolving needs, especially considering the shifts brought forth by the pandemic.

Through the ever-changing environment since March 2020, one constant remains: our focus on supporting schools in fulfilling student needs and requirements and delivering timely professional development to staff. These objectives shape every facet of our work. Grounded in data-driven insights, we continually refine our strategies to maximize impact and enhance the efficiency of our initiatives.

Bradley Whitman, Ed.D. **Executive Director**

Our areas of focus for the 2022-23 year include:

- 1** Model and lead a customer-centered approach to IU5 services, responding to vested partners and client needs.
- 2** Promote self-care strategies to improve and encourage a healthy work-life balance.
- 3** Lead change efforts for continuous improvement.
- 4** Adequately and equitably align funds for IU5 services in order to maintain the integrity of IU5 educational programs for all learner's birth through adulthood.
- 5** Ensure every IU5 employee embraces and consistently promotes the IU5 brand, mission, and can articulate its relevance to each person he or she encounters.
- 6** Communicate both internally and externally the value and quality of IU5 programs and services.
- 7** Foster a culture of excellence, innovation, and creativity through engagement, teamwork, and collaboration.
- 8** Encourage a workplace culture of support that promotes employee excellence through overall wellbeing.
- 9** Actively engage in recruiting and retention efforts to ensure delivery of services to our students and schools.
- 10** Promote a culture of cyber security and data privacy in our use of technology.

Annie Sullivan Award

Each year, the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit (IU5) participates in the Annie Sullivan Award program sponsored by the Pennsylvania Association of Intermediate Units. The award, named for Helen Keller's teacher and friend, honors an educator who goes beyond his or her job duties to facilitate acceptance of people with disabilities in school or the community.

IU5 Executive Director, Mr. Bradley Whitman, presented the annual Annie Sullivan Award to Speech Language Pathologist, Debra Randinelli-Giese at the monthly board meeting on Wednesday, August 24, 2022. Debra's nomination from IU5 Occupational Therapist, Heather Clouse, best highlights Debra's commitment to her students.

Debra's Nomination Letter:

Dear Committee,
It is my pleasure to nominate Deb R. Giese for the Anne Sullivan Award. It is wonderful to work with Deb and to observe her great enthusiasm she provides working with students at Corry Area School District. Deb's excitement for providing speech language pathology shows in all her work.

When she walks through the hallways at CASD all the students and staff know her and students both in regular education and special education ask to work with her. The creativity she brings to her speech sessions is so engaging and fun for all students.

Deb's enthusiasm to teach is also reflected in the community. Deb is a certified ski instructor at Peek N Peak. Through her work at Peek n Peak she can receive free ski passes to offer to friend or family member. It is just a pass, no lessons no instruction. Every winter season she chooses to offer the pass and invite a student that she works with and their parent(s) from CASD.

In the evenings on her own time, she offers to teach her special need student(s) how to ski, from putting on the equipment correctly, to walking in ski's to getting on and off the ski lift. She does not have to do this; she chooses to do this and over the years she has taught many students with special needs how to ski. Ski lessons are expensive, but Deb volunteers and offers her time to these students, she offers her ski training knowledge as a friend free. She even continued to offer this wonderful activity to students after a devastating house fire destroyed all of her own personal ski equipment.

Congratulations Debra Randinelli-Giese!

Debra's Nomination Letter Continued:

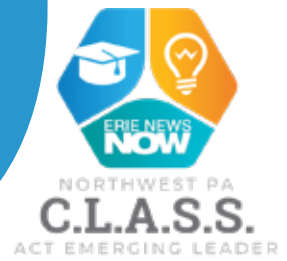
Deb on her own time, has beautifully taught many students with special needs how to ski and has made their parents so happy to watch their child learn a new skill, make new friends and most of all have an amazing community experience.

Thank you Deb for choosing to take time out of your own busy schedule to connect with “our” students and their families in such an amazing way!
– Heather Clouse,
IU5 Occupational Therapist

“ Thank you Deb for choosing to take time out of your own busy schedule to connect with “our” students and their families in such an amazing way! ”



Northwest Pennsylvania C. L. A. S. S. ACT Emerging Leader Award



This year we introduce and launch the Northwest Pennsylvania C. L. A. S. S. ACT Emerging Leader Award scholarships.

Northwest Pennsylvania C.L.A.S.S. Act Emerging Leader recognized bright, well-rounded, publicly educated students from 17 school districts in Erie, Crawford, and Warren Counties. The purpose of the program was to inspire and promote our bright, publicly educated students to continue their education and become complete, productive, and successful citizens. Each of the 17 school districts presented one student nominee each month. The nominee was a student in grades 10 through 12 who was picked by faculty members. A credentialed committee objectively selected a student to be honored with a \$1,000 Emerging Leader Award Scholarship monthly. The nine previously nominated and honored students throughout the school year were considered for a second scholarship of \$5,000 to be awarded at the end of the 2022-23 school year.

The final chosen scholarship winner was announced at a banquet held at IU5 and was awarded \$5,000. The \$5,000 scholarship winner was Samantha McIntyre from Fort LeBoeuf School District.

**Northwest PA
C.L.A.S.S. ACT
student shows
C=Character
L=Leadership
A=Attitude
S=Service
S=Selfless**

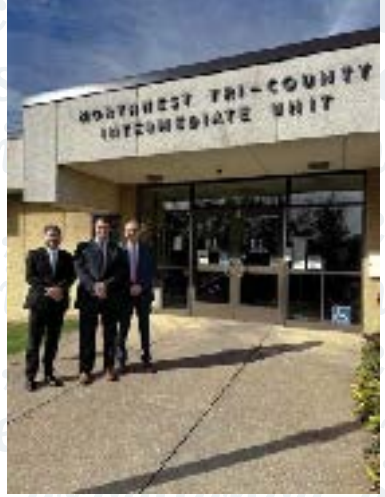


Leadership in Action

Pennsylvania Acting Secretary of Education, Eric Hagarty and Executive Deputy Secretary, David Volkman and them with superintendents on September 30, 2022.



NWPA Class Act Award Presentations



Brad visiting the Multiple Disabilities Classroom at Saegertown Elementary



PAIU Day on the Hill on April 25, 2023



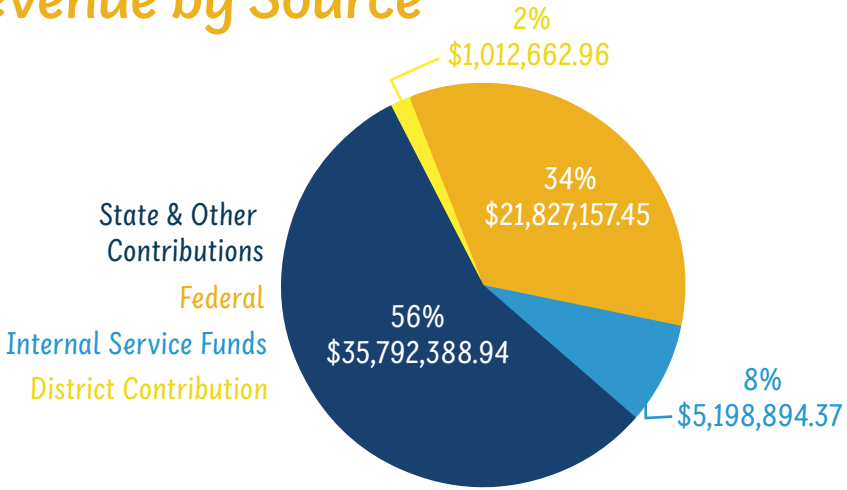
NWPA Class Act Award Presentations



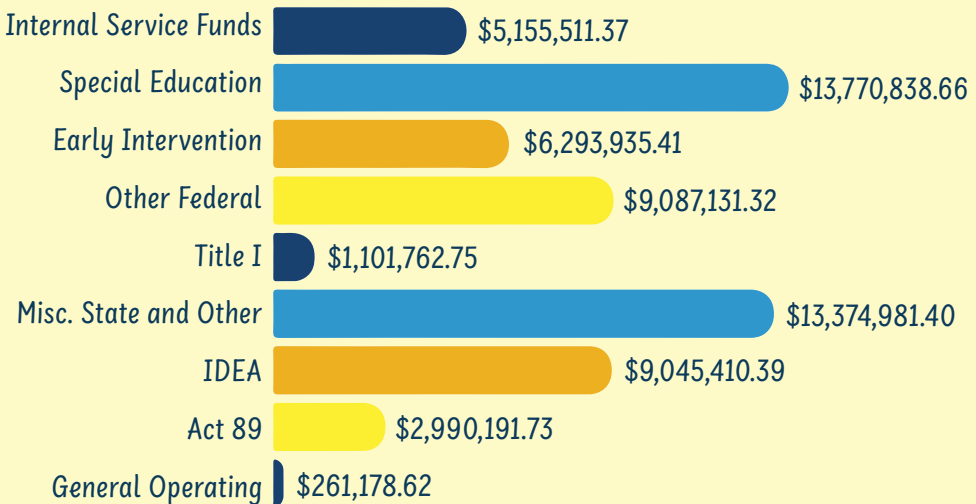
Fiscal Data

IU5 revenue is generated from contracts for services, state and federal grants, subsidies, and contracts from the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Revenue by Source



Expenditures by Program Category



Human Resources

The 2022-2023 school year was as busy as ever for the Human Resources department. During the school year, the Human Resources department held three district HR Job Alike meetings to further support the district HR staff. There was great district participation and many new members from the districts were welcomed to the group for networking and relationship building. In addition to these job alike meetings, various personnel from the department provided additional consultation, support and training to district HR staff as needed.

The Human Resources staff did many process improvements throughout the year including writing a progressive discipline process, updating checklists for new hires, terminations & recruiting, cross training of functions within the department, writing training for Level I to Level II trainings for administrative certifications and further refining the migrant summer recruiting and on-boarding process to best support the migrant program at a very hectic time.

A supervisor training series was resurrected for the school year to provide refreshers to some and new

information to others regarding many essential topics such as defining the supervisor role, interviewing & hiring, understanding medical leaves & workers compensation and progressive discipline & documenting employee actions.

During the school year, the Human Resources department hired 152 new employees across all departments including regular staff, contracted payroll and substitutes. The following is the breakdown by month for the school year.



Human Resources

Hire Month	Regular Staff	Contracted Payroll	Substitutes
July 2022	4	12	2
August 2022	13	2	4
September 2022	5	2	5
October 2022	3	0	2
November 2022	6	5	9
December 2022	2	1	3
January 2023	3	3	5
February 2023	9	2	7
March 2023	3	1	7
April 2023	6	2	2
May 2023	3	0	1
June 2023	1	17	1
Total	58	46	48

For the recruiting on the above hires following is some data on the applicants (with change from last school year's data):

- Total Applications Received: 2,292 (3.3% increase)
- Total Qualified Applications Received: 1,889 (3.7% increase)
- Total Number of Offers Made and Declined: 55 (8.3% decrease)
- Total Number of Interview Requests Declined: 59 (47.3% decrease)
- Total Number of Non-responsive Applicants: 151 (22.8% increase)
- Total Number of No-Shows for Scheduled Interviews: 98 (50.8% increase)

Safe 2 Say Something Data



In 2018, the General Assembly passed Act 44, which mandated the Office of Attorney General to establish the "Safe2Say Something" (S2SS) anonymous reporting system and required every Pennsylvania school entity to participate in the program by January 14, 2019.

S2SS is a lifesaving and life-changing school safety program that teaches students, educators, and administrators how to recognize the signs and signals of individuals who may be at risk of hurting themselves or others, and to anonymously report this information through the S2SS app, website, or 24/7 Crisis Center Hotline.

The majority of tips received by Safe2Say have not been about students making violent threats to their school or to their classmates—instead, they have been focused on students struggling with mental health issues.

The chart below represents a breakdown of reports by type, received by IU5, and includes the top 10 categories of tips received by the Safe2Say Something Program since the launch. Since the launch of the program, the tip line has received 113,683 tips which excludes any false reports received, as well as any test tips to the system. For the 2022-2023 school year, the Safe2Say Something program received 31,027 tips excluding false report received, and any test tips.

Event Type	Totals
Smoking (Tobacco, E-Cig, Vape) in School	152
Bullying / Cyber Bullying	137
Drug Distribution / Possession	107
Suicide / Suicide Ideation	86
Cutting / Self-Harm	64
Inappropriate Language/Behavior/Gesture	40
Harassment / Intimidation	35
Threat Against Person	23
Concern About an Adult	21
Hate Crime / Hate Speech / Discrimination	18

School Improvement Services

Federal & State Programs

Title I Public Consortium consisted of one school district and one charter school serving more than:

Title I Nonpublic Consortium consisted of consists of 13 school districts and serves almost:

Title I Neglected and Delinquent Consortium of consists of four local institutions and serves more than:

1,000
students

250
students

200
students

Upward Bound Math and Science Program

The Upward Bound Math and Science Program served 52 students from Corry, Erie and Union City high schools. Students participated in math and science activities to help encourage them to pursue post-secondary degrees in these fields. They attended 6 Science Saturdays and 12 students participated in the six-week residential STEM Academic Summer Institute at Penn State Behrend. 100% of the graduating seniors are moving on to post-secondary education. All seniors have been accepted into a four-year university.

52
students served from Corry, Erie, and Union City high-schools.

100%
of the graduating seniors are moving on to post-secondary education at a four-year university.

Upward Bound Math and Science Students on a field trip on the Lettie G. For many of the students this was their first time on a boat and on Lake Erie.



School Improvement Services

Federal & State Programs

Act 89 Program

The IU's Act 89 program provided the following services to children in nonpublic schools in our local area: remedial reading and mathematics to 613 students, enrichment services to 82 students, guidance counseling services to more than 1280 students, speech services to over 360 students, and psychological services to 111 students.

613

students served in
remedial reading & mathematics

82

students served in
enrichment services

1,280

students served in
guidance counseling services

360

students served in
speech services

111

students served in
psychological services

IU5 English Language Development Program

The IU5 English Language Development Program employed 8 ESL teachers who assisted 115 English learners from 14 LEAs (6 counties) with virtual and face-to-face instruction. As a regional point of contact, we hosted a quarterly virtual forum for administrators, disseminating information and facilitating coordinator networks to build capacity with student services. IU5 also supported public and private school teams with school-wide professional development presentations, building-level workshops, and direct consultation related to educating English learners in Pennsylvania.

Thank you for helping me improve my English.

I appreciate all the effort you put into teaching me.

Your lessons were engaging and fun and I feel much more confident speaking English now.

Thank you for being such a great Teacher!!



School Improvement Services

Federal & State Programs

Summer Foods Program

The Summer Foods program's purpose is to provide healthy, safe, and nutritious meals to students during the summer months in a cost-effective manner, provide training, on-site monitoring, and record-keeping to assure compliance with USDA, PDE, and health department rules and regulations and to partner with community agencies, school districts, and government agencies to provide quality services.

This summer we served a total of **66,000** breakfasts, lunches, and snacks in Crawford and Erie County.



IU5 staff carrying empty coolers after delivering food to a vendor.

Migrant Program

537 migrant students were in region 4 (30 counties) as of July 24th 2023. The Lake Erie Summer Program served 21 migrant students and 30 Erie City SD EL/Refugee children, all new arrivals from Afghanistan. Adams County Summer School of Excellence served 109 migrant students and 18 VIDA Charter School students. 5 York County students were served by the York County Summer Mini-Campus Program which took place at Keystone Kids Space and the Baltimore Aquarium. Students who were not able to attend a campus program or reside in an area where campus programs were not possible, received in-home instruction by PA-certified in-home teachers. The program is expected to serve 253 students at home before school starts.

School Improvement Services

Federal & State Programs

Talent Search program

The Talent Search program served 533 students in grades 6-12 from the Charter School of Excellence, Erie, and Union City Area School Districts. Students received STEM, college and career readiness activities and participated in numerous field trips. High School students participated in a one-week residential summer program in collaboration with Penn State Behrend, where students participated in Math, Science, English, Spanish, Speech and Debate and STEM classes, as well as cultural activities and field trips. Middle school students participated in a three-day summer program conducted by TS staff where students participated in campus visits, STEM activities and team building events. Rising 9th graders participated in a three-day summer camp where they participated in cultural activities, financial literacy and team building activities.

Talent search students on the Lady Kate for the rising 9th grade summer camp



School Improvement Services

Federal & State Programs

Adult Education Program

The IU5 Adult Education and Career Readiness Program provided educational services in basic skills such as reading, math, social studies and science, as well as workforce readiness skills, to 348 students residing in Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Venango, and Warren Counties. Of these students, 122 individuals achieved employment outcomes, 28 students entered post-secondary education or training and 12 earned a GED. More than half of all students made educational skills gains.

IU5 continued to provide services at the Career Readiness Center and Quality of Life Learning Center as well. The program served 660 students, of which 55% of the students that entered at the lowest level of literacy evidenced a gain in at least one educational functioning level. Over half of the beginning/intermediate English speakers evidenced 1 or more gains. 100% of the programs Adult Basic Education (ABE) Level 1 and English as a Second Language (ESL) Levels 1 & 2 achieved 1 or more Educational Functioning Level (EFL) gains. Two students gained U.S. citizenship while enrolled in IU5's Adult Education Program. The program also joined the

Western Refugee Alliance group to collaborate and share ESL Services for Immigrants, Refugees, and Humanitarian Parolees. IU5 Adult Education met the community's need to increase ESL classes which provide basic language skill development and supports students as they transition into postsecondary education or the workforce. Community partnerships expanded to include Catholic Charities, Conrader Valves, JTM Foods Inc., Erie Housing Authority Erie County Prison, and the International Institute of Erie.

The 064 Renewal Grant Application was submitted. The Adult Education Division Chief awarded the program \$16,981 in additional funds in the federal budget allocation for commendable performance. The program exceeded the projected contract enrollment of 100 ESL students, as well as the projected contracted enrollment of 20 incarcerated individuals. Our current Federal budget allocation is increased to \$616,051 and the State allocation has increased to \$322,950. Included in the application is \$205,305.33 in local match funds.

School Improvement Services

Federal & State Programs

Adult Education Program

The IU5 Adult Education Program is continuing to expand services to the communities we serve. An additional hybrid Algebra class has been added in Fairview, as well as several face-to-face ESL classes in Erie. The program's PDE Advisor approved the expansion of services at Erie County Prison to provide male and female GED classes. At the program year-end, in total, the program enrolled 31 incarcerated individuals and served approximately 13 between Erie and Venango County Prisons.

A PD Week was held June 19th- June 22nd at Blasco Library, the IU, and online. The supervisory team provided approximately 351 PD hours to 21 instructors and 3 Transition Specialists. Throughout the year professional development was provided that included: Situational Awareness Training, QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) training, and Year 1 and Year 2 PLC cohorts of Teaching Skills That Matter. Presentations from Workforce Development and PA CareerLink included Loretta Linger, PSU Workforce Development Specialist and Keith Knauf PA CareerLink Talent Engagement Specialist. A small group of instructors

participated in the ANDE West Ed. math curriculum pilot. Instructors continue to participate in ongoing professional development and reflect their time on a newly implemented template to capture the instructors PD time, as well as the task completed.

Over the last program year, the Adult Education team continued to focus on growth and improvement. The program updated marketing materials, implemented a Welcome Workshop for orienting new students, digitized documents, and increased the accessibility of the program's information.



Prem B. ESL Student
transitioned to ABE
Graduate: Passed GED

School Improvement Services

Federal & State Programs

Adult Education Program

12 Students successfully passed GED and will participate in Graduation Ceremony



New Partnership: Catholic Charities providing ESL instruction



Adult Education attended & provided program information at IMPACT luncheon and nonprofit fair that was at the Manufacturer & Business Association, 2171 West 38th Street, Erie

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

1,500

of the region's teachers from 12 school districts and charter schools responded to the spring 2023 Web-based staff development needs assessment.

218

educators representing 18 local school districts and charter schools attended 8 sessions during Regional Common In-service Day on October 10, 2022

152

IU staff development programs provided more than 5,000 Act 48 hours to more than 722 different educators.

7,200

Act 48 hours were uploaded by the IU to 782 individuals across the state for conferences and trainings

415

PIL credits (each worth 30 hours) were uploaded by the IU to 259 individuals across the state for the PA Inspired Leadership Program for Region 8

1,000

students participated in 14 different student programs and/or competitions

236

trainings, meetings, and consultations were provided by School Improvement Services staff with 159 (67%) being customized for a district or charter school

484

trainings, meetings, and consultations were provided by Training and Consultation staff with 382 (79%) being customized for a district or charter school

Special Education

The School-Age special education program is our largest program which includes services that support eligible students from kindergarten through the age of 21. There are over 130 IU5 employees who work in the School-Age special education program area, and they travel to over 56 different locations.

Early Intervention

The Early Intervention (EI) department provides services to students ages three to the age of beginners that have developmental delays or disabilities. There are over 70 IU5 employees who work in the EI program, and they travel to over 200 sites across the region. EI staff completed close to 800 evaluations on students and 1,000 students were supported with Early Intervention services from July 2022 through June 2023. We provided support to families and LEAs to over 300 students transitioning to kindergarten for the 23-24 school year. This growth has allowed the program to expand our staffing as well.

IU5 also provides Hearing and Vision support to children from birth to the age of 3 (B-3) via contracts with Crawford, Erie, and Warren counties. There are four IU5 staff that provide B-3 services to children in various settings.

There are 18 different areas IU5 special education staff support throughout Northwestern PA. These include:

- 1 Assistive Technology
- 2 Autistic Support
- 3 Behavior Intervention
- 4 Blind/Vision Support
- 5 Deaf/Hard of Hearing Support
- 6 Education Interpreter Support
- 7 Emotional Support
- 8 Equitable Participation
- 9 Life Skills Support
- 10 Multiple Disability Support
- 11 Occupational Therapy
- 12 Orientation and Mobility Support
- 13 Personal Care Assistance
- 14 Physical Therapy
- 15 Psychological Support
- 16 Special Education services
- 17 Speech and Language Support
- 18 Transportation Coordination

Special Education

ELECT Program

The Education Leading to Employment and Career Training (ELECT)—a Pennsylvania Department of Education initiative funded by the Department of Human Services—enables school districts and intermediate units to help pregnant and parenting teens earn a diploma or high school equivalency (HSE) certificate, become better parents, and make the transition to employment, career training or higher education. The IU5 ELECT Program supports students in Crawford, Erie, Warren, Forest, Clarion and Venango counties and served over 70 students throughout the last program year.

PCCD Grant

IU5 was awarded another two-year PCCD Grant for the school years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. In year one of the PCCD Grant, IU5 hired a Mental Health Specialist, she became trained to facilitate professional development in the areas Trauma and Suicide Prevention free to IU5 member districts. Question Persuade, Refer (QPR) Suicide Prevention training was also facilitated by IU5 staff to all IU5 Supervisors. Trauma training was facilitated across two districts this year. Additionally, the Mental Health Specialist partnered with Crawford County Human Services to help create a provider availability listing for use within the school districts.

Crisis Support

For Crisis support, IU5 staff were involved in response efforts in 4 school districts during the 2022-2023 School year. Staff also met with 2 school districts to consult on crisis response future planning in conjunction with support for Suicide Prevention efforts. IU5 staff are members of Suicide Prevention Task Forces for both Erie and Crawford Counties. IU5 is contracted by Erie County Department of Human Services to oversee SAP Grant funded Mental Health Liaison services. Within the IU5/ Erie County grant contract the IU5 oversees 25+ Mental Health Liaisons in the 12 county school districts and 2 nonpublic high schools. During the 2022-2023 school year the Mental Health Liaisons received referrals for 2,290 students and were able to obtain permission to screen 1,828 students in Erie County. IU5 has two SAP Lead trainers approved through the Pennsylvania Network for Student Assistance. SAP new team member training was held in the fall of 2022, February 2023 and June of 2023 with a total of 160 participants.

Special Education

School Based Access Program

The School Based Access Program (SBAP) processed logs that equated to over 13,000 hours of the IU5's itinerant staff's direct services to students! In total, our itinerant staff supports around 1,300 students annually. During the 2021-2022 school year, IU5 staff submitted claims accruing \$1,207,939.10 reimbursement through the school-based access program. These funds support districts to help defray the cost of these services.

Highlights from Special Education for the 2022-2023 School Year



Innovative Technology Solutions

Innovative Technology Solutions (ITS) addressed several large projects during the 22-23 school year. All five of the large conference rooms were renovated with technology updates to accommodate hybrid meetings and learning opportunities. The new system replaced a decades old system. The enhancements provide a more flexible environment for attendees to view content, engage with remote participants, and provide expanded opportunities for new and exciting professional development. An added feature is that all rooms are identical, making it easier for IU staff and our guests to deliver world class learning experiences.

The pandemic continued to influence the supply chains for information technology equipment, which resulted in the delay of updating our aging network infrastructure in the Edinboro office. The delay was so lengthy that ITS started to evaluate alternative products to meet the IU networking needs. Ultimately, the original equipment shipped, and the project is in progress, although almost a year later than planned. Additionally, we were successful in updating our wireless infrastructure at the Edinboro office and throughout the three counties. Our staff rely on the seamless accessibility our wireless network

provides in delivering our services to schools.

Cybersecurity is a large topic in K-12 and the IU has had to address many aspects of this new challenge. We have completed a cybersecurity assessment using Caetra.IO's Cymetrics tool. This process allowed us to examine all aspects of our cybersecurity program and identify those areas we need to focus on over the next several years. As part of our cybersecurity hygiene, we implemented the Learn Platform that tracks all applications being used by IU staff, checks if the apps have been vetted for security and privacy, and tracks the usage of the apps. The Learn Platform also helps the IU stay in compliance with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Rule (COPPA).

The Federal E-Rate program provides significant savings for schools regarding their internet and school-to-school networks. IU5 has a consortium of districts that participate in the E-Rate program in order to maximize our savings. ITS does electronic filing and contract management. Filing for E-Rate is done one year in advance. Services submitted to E-Rate for the 23-24 school year was \$518,864.39 with a reimbursement rate of \$407,606.07, or approximately a 78.55% savings rate.

Closing Remarks

In closing this report, we reflect on our mission: "IU5 provides excellence, equity, and opportunities." These words guide us and our commitment to positive change, and our unwavering dedication to those we serve.

Excellence has been our driving force, pushing us to continually raise the bar in all that we do. We have strived for excellence in our programs, services, and collaborations, driven by the belief that every individual we touch deserves our very best.

Equity has been our compass. In our pursuit of equity, we have worked to level the playing field, ensuring that every person, regardless of their background or circumstances, has an equal opportunity to succeed.

Opportunities have been our promise, the promise that every day brings a chance for positive transformation. We have created pathways, opened doors, and empowered individuals to seize those opportunities and shape their own destinies.

The impact we have documented in this report is a testament to the power of our mission. It is a testament to the lives we have touched, the barriers we have broken, and the dreams we have nurtured.

As we look ahead, we are filled with hope and determination. Our mission continues to guide us forward, propelling us to even greater heights. We remain committed to providing excellence, equity, and opportunities, and we invite you to join us.

You can learn more about everything IU5 offers by going to our website, IU5.org. We also encourage you to keep up with us by following us on social media. You can find us on our Facebook, Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit 5, and on our Instagram, [@iu5edinboro](https://www.instagram.com/iu5edinboro).

To our supporters, staff, and the communities we serve, we extend our deepest thanks. Together, we are making a difference as we continue to create a brighter, fairer, and more inclusive future for all.

With unwavering commitment,
Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit 5



nce, equity, opportunities, excellence, equity,
equity, opportunities, excellence, equity,
nce, equity, opportunities, excellence, equity,
equity, opportunities, excellence, equity,
, opportunities, **excellence**, equity, opportunities,
equity, opportunities, excellence, equity,
nce, equity, opportunities, excellence, equity,
equity, opportunities, excellence, equity,
nce, equity, **opportunities**, excellence, equity,
equity, opportunities, excellence, equity,
ty, opportunities, excellence, equity, opportunities,
equity, opportunities, excellence, equity, opportunities,
unities, excellence, **equity**, excellence, equity,
equity, opportunities, excellence, equity, opportunities,
nce, equity, opportunities, excellence, equity, opportunities,
equity, opportunities, excellence, equity, opportunities,
ty, opportunities, excellence, equity, opportunities,
equity, opportunities, excellence, equity, opportunities,
nce, equity, opportunities, excellence, equity, opportunities,
equity, opportunities, excellence, equity, opportunities,
nce, equity, opportunities, excellence, equity, opportunities,
equity, opportunities, excellence, equity, opportunities,
ty, opportunities, excellence, equity, opportunities,
equity, opportunities, excellence, equity, opportunities,



Northwest Tri-County
INTERMEDIATE UNIT 5

**252 Waterford Street
Edinboro, Pennsylvania 16412**

It is the policy of the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit not to discriminate on the basis of age, religion, sex, race, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, or non-job related disability (including sexual harassment, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression), in the admission or access to, or in the provision of services, programs, or employment in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 1604 of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246 and 11375, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, the Civil Rights Act of 1991, and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act.

For information relevant to this policy statement, contact Christine Carucci, 504 Coordinator and ADA Coordinator, or Sally Daehnke, Title IX Coordinator.