



University of Pittsburgh

THE FORUM

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TRI-STATE AREA SCHOOL STUDY COUNCIL

Seeking ways to increase organizational capacity in schools through problem solving, technical service, and staff development so all students will be better prepared to make contributions to both our democratic society and the world community

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Tri-State Workshops

Principal Leadership Institute Workshops

The Tri-State Area School Study Council is pleased to invite all member districts to participate in the Principal Leadership Institute Workshops for the 2016-2017 school year.

The series, made up of four workshops focused on **Inspiring Leadership, the Technology Movement, Instruction and Learning, and Legal Issues**, will seek to foster a strong network for participating administrators and provide a strong professional development experience.

The first workshop will be held at Elizabeth Forward School District on **October 19**. The workshop fee is \$500 per principal leader for four programs. The fee includes breakfast, lunch, and all materials for all four workshop dated. The deadline to apply for the program has been extended to **October 7**. Visit [our website](#) to download the application. ♦

Annual NCAA Update



Tri-State, in cooperation with the University of Pittsburgh Department of Athletics and the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League, is pleased to once again host the Annual NCAA Update on **October 20**, at the Petersen Events Center in Oakland.



New this year will be a panel discussion session on NCAA Initial Eligibility and Recruiting at the Division I Level. Speakers include University of Pittsburgh Coaches, Athletics Staff, and NCAA Eligibility Associate Director Donna Hedges

We encourage athletic directors, high school principals, guidance counselors, and coaches to attend this informative morning workshop. For more information on this workshop, or to register, visit https://tristate.pitt.edu/?page_id=47. ♦

Tri-State News

Upcoming Fall Workshops

November 15– Special Education Workshop, presented by Amy DeLuca, Division Chief, Western Region, Pennsylvania Department of Education

November 21- “Let Me Do My Job: Challenges for School Administrators” (For all Central Office and building level administrators), presented by attorneys from Weiss Burkardt Kramer LLC

ED News Round-Up

School of Education Dean Announces Retirement

Alan Lesgold, dean of the School of Education and a member of the University of Pittsburgh’s Council of Deans since 2000, has stepped down as dean in August 2016. Under Lesgold’s leadership, the School of Education has embraced long-term strategic planning, successfully redesigned key programs to meet student needs, and continued to foster research of impact among its faculty. We warmly welcome Lindsay Clare Matsumura as the Interim Dean for the 2016-2017 school year.

U.S. Department of Education Awards \$5 Million to Recruit, Train and Support Teachers to Focus on Rural Communities.

The U.S. Department of Education announced four new five-year grants totaling \$5.1 million through its [Teacher Quality Partnership \(TQP\) program](#), which funds innovative teacher preparation models to improve the preparedness of prospective and new teachers serving high-need communities. [Read more....](#)

Feeding Pennsylvania, representing the state’s eight Feeding America Food Banks, is partnering with the Mid-Atlantic Dairy Association, Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program, and Pennsylvania Dairy-men’s Association for Fill a Glass with Hope, the first statewide charitable fresh milk program in the nation.

The 2016 Fill a Glass with Hope campaign launched at the 100th Pennsylvania Farm Show in January. Donations to the campaign allow Feeding Pennsylvania’s network of eight food banks to purchase milk from their local dairies at a reduced price and provide them to Pennsylvanians in need. You can contribute to the cause by going to www.feedingpa.org/milk.





Green & Healthy Schools Academy

An Initiative of the Green Building Alliance

The Green & Healthy Schools Academy (GHSA) is helping to cultivate inspiring, engaging, healthy, and high-performing places of learning in Western Pennsylvania. GHSA strives to foster a community of people that seek to make the world a more livable and beautiful place for all. Our programs include the School Sustainability Culture Program, Healthy Schools Technical Assistance, and Innovative Learning Lab.

<http://greenandhealthyschoolsacademy.org>

Chartiers Valley Building Project a Vanguard of Healthy and High-Performing Schools

Chartiers Valley School District (CVSD) recently broke ground on a new middle and high school complex that we hope will set a new standard for how school design and construction in the Commonwealth will take place. The forthcoming facilities embrace a student-centered approach to education by accommodating diverse and personalized learning experiences in synergetic and flexible spaces, where the buildings can foster creativity and be models of health and sustainability. What sets this project apart is not the advanced mechanical systems or the unique layout of classrooms. It is the process that CVSD administration embarked on before the building design was even started. This process included several notable aspects:

- Setting high performance goals for student health, environmental impact, and effective learning that informed the selection of the design team;
- Establishing a set of [guiding principles](#) co-created with the community, which help set priorities and make decisions throughout the process;
- Being patient, inclusive, and collaborative with the CV community, and allowing them to be truly central to the process, such as through the School Design Advisory Teams (SDAT);
- Taking the SDATs to visit numerous schools inside and outside the region to look at innovative practices and approaches;
- Using an integrative design approach – which allows for continuous dialogue and feedback between students, staff, community members, designers, and builders – leads to a building that best meets the demands of 21st century learning and high-performance school environments.



*Advisory Team Meeting
Photo courtesy of IKM Inc.*

We are excited to see and experience the results of this bold and ambitious approach, and hope that all schools in our region have the opportunity to learn from CV's process. The Green & Healthy Schools Academy will be hosting a presentation and Hard Hat Tour at the site of the new Chartiers Valley Middle and High Schools on October 25th from 4:30-6:30p. Learn more and register at <https://www.go-gba.org/events/chartiersvalley>.

Innovative Learning Lab

How might we inspire and support educators and learners in adopting mindsets and behaviors based on holistic sustainability? How do we even define holistic sustainability? At the Green & Healthy Schools Academy, we live and breathe these questions. Our programming does not seek to provide an answer; instead, we design experiences that provide the time, space, and interactions that challenge the participants to live these questions with us. In this we hope that they begin to see sustainability as more than a recycling program or energy audit, as important as those are, but an exploration of community, justice, love, and beauty.

Our schools are not designed for this kind of dialogue. In many ways, our modern world is not designed for it. Engaging in this kind of sustainability is hard. As such we are excited to launch the Innovative Learning Lab to explore these questions further and experiment with different learning strategies. It is a place to take risks in program design and execution. It is a place to document and reflect on our process with as broad a community as possible.

Here is a snapshot of some ongoing activities in the Innovative Learning Lab:

- **Data & Place:** In partnership with CMU's CREATE Lab, we are designing a place-based learning program that explores the relationship between data and place. The program provides a space for educators and learners to investigate the most effective ways to use data in understanding a community and the impact of using data in this way. Scheduled for Spring 2017
- **Systems Design Labs:** We are creating a series of Systems Design Labs that will embed systems thinking within the human-centered design process, and determine effective ways to bring the growing field of systems change to K-12 educators and students. Starting Fall 2016
- **Ethics in STEM:** We are excited to begin a partnership with Intermediate Unit 1 that will explore how we might teach about ethics and impact while designing STEM-oriented lessons, units, and project-based learning. This is part of our desire to build the architecture for a larger conversation about purposeful maker education.



*Pilot of Data & Place Walking Tour
Photo courtesy of CREATE Lab*

We hope the Lab process uncovers effective strategies, programs, and experiences that not only teach sustainability, but do so in ways that are bold and transformative. For more information, contact Teresa DeFlitch, Director of Innovative Learning, at teresad@gbapgh.org.

Tri-State Area School Study Council Calendar of Events

Annual NCAA Update

October 18, 2016, Petersen Events Center

Principal Leadership Institute: Workshop 1

October 19, 2016, Elizabeth Forward School District

Special Education Workshop, presented by Amy DeLuca, PDE

November 15, 2016, Edgewood Country Club

“Let Me Do My Job: Challenges for School Administrators” Legal Workshop, presented with Weiss Burkardt Kramer LLC

November 21, 2016, Edgewood Country Club

Principal Leadership Institute: Workshop 2

December 13, 2016

14th Annual Dr. Jean E. Winsand School Leadership Institute for Women in School Leadership

March 28, 2017 Edgewood Country Club

19th Annual Dr. Samuel Francis School Law Symposium and Special Education Workshop

June 21, 2017, The University Club

Executive Committee Meetings

December 14, 2016

March 15, 2017

June 14, 2017



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The Forum is a publication of the Tri-State Area School Study Council. Your comments and suggestions of topics for future publications are always welcome.

The information in The Forum is for the general knowledge of the reader. For more specific information, rely on the advice of your solicitor.

What Act 10 Means for School Districts

By Annemarie K. Harr, Esq.



Annemarie K. Harr

Earlier this year, Act 10 of 2016, which permits local government agencies to invest public funds in certain types of financial products which previously not permitted, was signed into law.

Act 10 expands the types of investments permitted for these agencies to include commercial paper, bankers' acceptance and negotiable certificates of deposit. These additional investments can allow school districts to more fully diversify their investments. However, with these new types of investments, school districts can also be faced with potential financial risks as their ability to invest expands.

Though the Act may have been intended to cover school districts, it is important to note that the Act did not amend portions of the School Code which relate to district investments and money management. Under Sections 621-623 of the School Code, in order for a school district to deposit funds, the deposit instrument must meet certain collateralization requirements. Currently, there are no known negotiable certificates of deposit that meet these requirements and therefore, if the amount of a negotiable certificate of deposit exceeds \$250,000 (the limit of FDIC deposit protection), any investment of district funds would be in direct violation of the School Code under 24 P.S. §§ 6-621-623. Additionally, the Act does not amend Section 440.1 of the School Code which covers the investment of school district funds. That section of the School Code does not include the types of investments outlined in Act 10. As such, there is an argument that because Act 10 does not amend the School Code, school districts are still held to the investment standards contained therein.

School districts or CTCs wishing to expand their investment options under Act 10 should do so in direct consultation with their solicitor to ensure compliance with all governing statutes. ♦

Update: Anti-Hazing Law

By Hobart J. "Hobie" Webster, Esq.

On July 25, 2016, a new law took effect in Pennsylvania. Act 31 of 2016 amended the Anti-Hazing Law of 1986 to now cover secondary schools and their students in grades 7-12.



Hobart J. Webster

Originally, the Law only extended to institutions of higher education; however, the amendments add a definition of secondary school to the Law. Under the Law, "any public or private school within this Commonwealth providing instruction in grades 7 through 12 or any combination of those grades" must now:

1. Adopt a written anti-hazing policy which includes rules prohibiting hazing;
2. Provide a copy of its written anti-hazing policy, rules, penalties and program of enforcement to all athletic coaches at the school;
3. Post its written anti-hazing policy on its publicly accessible website.

Hazing is defined under the Law as, "any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a person or which willfully destroys

or removes public or private property for the initiation or admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in, any organization. The terms shall include, but not be limited to, any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug or other substance, or any other forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health and safety of the individual, and shall include any activity which

As the school year begins, it is necessary that school districts recognize their new responsibilities under the law.

continued on next page

We're Speaking...

- Attorneys Jocelyn Kramer and Aimee Zundel will be presenting at PBI's Exceptional Children Conference in Lancaster, PA on October 7. Ms. Kramer will be speaking on the topic of "Discipline and Students with Disabilities" while Ms. Zundel's topic will be "When Does a Procedural Violation Result in Substantive Denial of FAPE?"
- Attorney Rebecca Heaton Hall will be lecturing at NBI's Pennsylvania Special Education Law seminar on October 18, 2016 on the following topics: "Successfully Handling Disciplinary Actions for Special Needs Students" and "Ensuring Successful Due Process Procedures."
- Attorney Ira Weiss will be the keynote speaker at the National Association of Pupil Services Administrators Annual Conference on October 31, 2016 in Pittsburgh.

New Federal Guidance to Schools

by Aimee Rankin Zundel, Esq.

On July 26, 2016, the U.S. Department of Education issued non-regulatory guidance on students experiencing homelessness and their rights under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). That guidance can be found here – <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/160240ehcyguidance072716.pdf>



Aimee Rankin Zundel

Also on July 26, 2016, the Office of Civil Rights issued a "Dear Colleague Letter" concerning students diagnosed with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and the protections they are entitled to under Section 504. OCR explains why students with ADHD may be presumptively eligible for a 504 Plan. Link to the DCL here – <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-201607-504-adhd.pdf>

Should you have any questions regarding how newly-issued guidance should inform policy or procedure at your school, please do not hesitate to contact the attorneys at WBK.

Anti-Hazing Law Update, *continued*

would subject the individual to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual, or any willful destruction or removal of public or private property. For purposes of this definition, any activity as described in this definition upon which the initiation or admission into or affiliation with or continued membership in an organization is directly or indirectly conditioned shall be presumed to be "forced" activity, the willingness of an individual to participate such activity notwithstanding."

The Law requires that schools adopt procedures to enforce the rules against hazing and penalties for the violation of such rules. The Law specifically states that schools may, as a penalty, impose fines, withhold diplomas or transcripts or impose probation, suspension or expulsion upon students who violate the school's anti-hazing policy, and may even result to disbanding sports' teams or groups that operate on school property or under the sanction of the school. Furthermore, any penalties imposed by the school shall be in addition to criminal penalties that may be imposed on violators.

As the school year begins, it is necessary that school districts recognize their new responsibilities under the law. Please do not hesitate to contact WBK for questions regarding compliance with these requirements, including the revision of your current policies and student handbook to include this important update. ♦

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This issue of In Brief: School Law Update is meant to be informational and does not constitute legal advice. Should districts wish legal advice on any matter, they should contact their legal counsel or request a legal opinion from Weiss Burkardt Kramer, LLC.

Homeless Children's Awareness Week

October 16-22, 2016

The annual Homeless Children's Awareness Week is an entire week of awareness-raising events to bring to light the plight and promise of children and youth experiencing homelessness. For more information, contact HCEF at 412-562-0154.

Stand Up & Run for Homeless Children
5K Run/Walk
October 16, 2016 • 2:00 p.m.
South Park

homelessfund.org/event/stand-up-run-for-homeless-children/

Stand Up Art Installation
October 18, 2016 • Noon
Duquesne University

Stand Up Art Installation
October 19, 2016 • 12:30 PM
Chatham University



**HOMELESS
CHILDREN'S
EDUCATION
FUND**

creating hope through learning
www.homelessfund.org

Happy Hour
October 19, 2016 • 5:30-7:30 PM
Franktuary

Stand Up Art Installation
October 20, 2016 • 12:30 PM
University of Pittsburgh

"There's No Place Like Home"
Storytelling for Children
October 22, 2016 • 3:00 p.m.
Winchester Thurston Lower School Auditorium
hcefstorytelling2016.eventbrite.com



Homeless Children's Awareness Week
October 16 – 22, 2016

The annual Homeless Children's Awareness Week is an entire week of awareness-raising events to bring to light the plight and promise of children and youth experiencing homelessness.

Stand Up & Run for Homeless Children 5K Race, South Park

October 16, 2016 • **2 PM**

[More Info.](#)

[Flyer](#)

Stand Up Art Installation, Duquesne University

October 18, 2016 • Noon

[Flyer](#)

Stand Up Art Installation, Chatham University

October 19, 2016 • **12:30 PM**

[Flyer](#)

Happy Hour, Franktuary

October 19, 2016 • **5:30-7:30 PM**

[Flyer](#)

Stand Up Art Installation, University of Pittsburgh

October 20, 2016 • **12:30 PM**

[Flyer](#)

Storytelling for Children, Winchester Thurston

October 22, 2016 • **3 PM**

[More Info.](#)

[Flyer](#)