



Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit 5

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www.iu5.org

September 22, 2021 Board Meeting Notes

IU5

Board Presentation: by Heather Martin-Radock on Mental Health

Services: <https://vimeo.com/604882254/6fb84d7d01>

- Summer Food Service Program provided 83,741 meals this past summer
- Work has begun on for the UBMS grant 2022-2026 with a due date of January 2022
- Adult Education graduation was held on 9/1 for 71 students. Second Lady of PA, Gisele Barreto Fetterman, was a guest speaker
- Since July 1, 2021: 96 students have been enrolled in adult education classes
- The E-Rate Emergency Connectivity Fund, IU5 Schools asked for 15.2 million dollars
- Finance has created 47 new budgets for 15 new grants that the IU is engaged in due to additional funding, currently overseeing 292 different budgets
- From August 31st through September 15th, the special education department had 124 instances of substitute coverage needed
- SIS/CIA has taken to Facebook to market IU5 services. In two weeks, 2,402 users have viewed the advertisement

State

- This is going to be an interesting fall, one that will be rather political and divisive. At its core are the mask order, elections and redistricting. Some school issues will be wrapped up in that. Vaccinations also continue to be a hot issue.
- On Friday, official notice of the Governor's proposed regulations on charter schools was published in the [Pennsylvania Bulletin](#), and the PDE is now accepting public comment for 30 days (due October 18). The [proposed regulations](#) concern ethics law compliance, resolution of unpaid bills, application process, and transparency (audits, financial operations). It does NOT address the funding issue but encompasses several of the things the governor wanted to accomplish.
- **HB 1660: Temporary Emergency Provision-** This bill has been sent to the floor and currently is on second consideration in the House. HB 1660 would change School Code wording. Right now, the School Code allows school boards to enact emergency procedures for up to four years. HB 1660 would change that from four years to 60 days and require board reauthorization (recently amended to require a majority vote). Amendments have been posted to this bill, two of which would either seek to repeal the masking order or state that school districts couldn't require masks. The vitriol on that issue is getting caught up in this bill.
- **Potential Diversity in the Education Workforce Bill-** The first part of the bill speaks to dual enrollment programs, requiring every school district to have at least one such agreement. There is bipartisan support for this bill. We are concerned about making that mandatory because it doesn't require higher education to cooperate. There are also recording requirements, and we're not sure that is necessary. We are concerned for rural districts who may not have higher education access. And this could involve cost.
- **HB1894: Opening of Schools after the Labor Day Holiday-** This legislation would require school districts to begin the academic year no earlier than the day after Labor Day. A waiver to this rule may be granted by the Secretary of Education if extenuating circumstances exist.



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- Concerning President Biden's order concerning mandatory employee vaccinations for 26 states, Pennsylvania is NOT one of the OSHA states that falls under the requirement, so the federal order about mandatory vaccinations for employees does not apply here. That would have to come from the state.
- **Health Committee challenges school mask order** - This week the House Health Committee, with a 15-5 vote, adopted a [letter](#) requesting a determination from the Commonwealth Joint Committee on Documents on whether acting Health Secretary Alison Beam's K-12 schools and childcare centers indoor masking mandate is subject to the regulatory process and the Regulatory Review Act. The letter also asks the Joint Committee to expedite the request.

Federal

Details Re: Biden Vaccine Plan and Education Implications

Here's what we know so far about how President Biden's vaccine plan impacts states/districts directly. While it does not apply broadly to all schools, the Biden administration will issue a rule through the Department of Labor that will apply to the 26 states with OSHA plans (including Tenn., S.C., Ariz., Ky. and Va.). Teachers in these states will have to be vaccinated OR submit to weekly testing. To check on your state's OSHA plan, please refer to this [map](#).

FCC Announces Second ECF Application Window

The FCC announced that requests for \$5.137 billion in funding were received during the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program's initial filing window. In view of outstanding demand and the recent spike in coronavirus cases, the FCC will open a second application filing window for schools and libraries to request funding from the roughly \$2 billion in program funds remaining for connected devices and broadband connections for the current 2021-22 school year. The second window will open on September 28 and run until October 13.

Fast Fact/ Quote

86% of students attend school districts that are not adequately funded under Pennsylvania state law.

-PA School Works

"Only a crisis - actual or perceived produces real change." - Milton Friedman