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Chester County
Intermediate Unit
Education Association

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Good Technology News!

The Intermediate Unit's IT Department has recently purchased a site license for the online learning tool, Atomic Learning (www.atomiclearning.com).

More than 20,000 tutorial movies for over 100 software applications are available 24/7 for those wishing to upgrade their skills in using and integrating technology into their classrooms. The advantages of this learning system are as follows:

- Web-based software training available 24/7
- More than 20,000 tutorial movies on more than 100 of the most common software applications
- Over 500 new tutorials added every 45 days
- Closed captions available on thousands of tutorials
- Over 200 technology-based classroom activities and curriculum resources
- Home access so you, and your students and their parents, can use Atomic Learning where and when you need it

Check your e-mail or call IT for your user name and password! This is a great tool we all should be using!

Upcoming Events

— December 5 —

Rep Council

3 PM - ESC

Downingtown, PA

— December 8 & 9, 2006 —

PSEA House of Delegates

Pittsburgh, PA

— January 9 —

Advisory/Rep Council

3 PM - ESC

Downingtown, PA

— February 6 —

Rep Council

3 PM - ESC

Downingtown, PA

To submit information or an article for publication in *The Open Door*, send an e-mail to the editor at alberttucker@verizon.net or send via courier to Al Tucker at CAT Pickering

From the November 15-16, 2006 State Board of Education Meeting

Review of Chapter 14 (Special Education Regulations) and Chapter 16 (Gifted Education) Begins

A sub-committee of the Board has been chosen to fast-track revisions to Chapters 14 and 16 to bring Pennsylvania into compliance with IDEA and NCLB. The USDOE has given Pennsylvania until June 30, 2007 to complete review of these chapters. Mollie Phillips, Chair, Larry Wittig and Connie Davis are the members of the standing committee for Chapters 14 and 16.

Roundtables have been scheduled for -

December 6	Harrisburg PaTTAN Office (by Invitation Only)
December 11	Pittsburgh PaTTAN Office
December 13	Harrisburg PaTTAN Office
December 19	King of Prussia PaTTAN Office

The following link provides details on times and how to register for these roundtables.

http://www.pde.state.pa.us/stateboard_ed/cwp/view.asp?A=3&Q=106648

Sign language interpreter and transliterator regulations will be added to Chapter 14 to comply with Act 92 of 2006.

In Act 92, the Legislature exempted interpreters who are employed by schools from another statute that required all hearing interpreters to pass a standardized test, the EIPA, by June 2006 in order to work as interpreters. However, Act 92 did not just give school interpreters a pass on proving their qualifications. The law requires the State Board of Education to develop and implement regulations that will define how school employees will demonstrate that they are qualified to work as sign language interpreters and transliterators. The Department of Education has been working on a proposal, and the State Board will begin formally accepting input at the Ch. 14 roundtables.

Costing-Out Study Initiated

The State Board has commissioned Dr. Robert Feir to coordinate a costing out study within the Commonwealth. Several firms have submitted proposals to conduct the study, which are being reviewed by the Department and the Board. The costing out study is supposed to determine how much it actually costs to educate Pennsylvania's students in compliance with the state standards and federal requirements, taking into account the many diverse factors that affect children's ability to learn. (A similar study already conducted in Allentown concluded that the district would need an additional \$30 million to provide the required education.) The statewide costing out study is expected to be completed in approximately one year. PSEA and other education organizations will work to encourage policymakers to use the costing out study report as a jumping off point to address equity in school funding.

ED Hub

Secretary Zahorchak announced PDE's new resource for educators, the Education Hub. This can be accessed from PDE's website, www.pde.state.pa.us. This site provides information on topics like Classrooms for the Future (Math, Literacy, Social Studies, Science, Grant Information, etc.), PA Inspired Leaders (a support system for leaders), Learning Nexus (a curriculum alignment tool), Keystones (recognizes educators who integrate technology into the curriculum) and Academic Progress & Performance (AYP and NCLB information for Pennsylvania).

National Board

State and Federal funding is now available to pay the entire fee for 500 successful candidates to obtain National Board certification in Pennsylvania. In addition to the funding, the state has established four regional centers (East Stroudsburg University, Temple University, Duquesne University and Gannon University) to provide support and assistance to candidates. Anyone interested in becoming Nationally Board certified can obtain information at <http://www.pdenewsroom.state.pa.us/newsroom/cwp/view.asp?Q=122440&A=3>.

Keystone Achievement Awards

2,172 schools in Pennsylvania have met AYP goals for two consecutive years and are recipients of the Keystone Achievement Award. This is the third year these awards have been granted.

Certification Staffing Policy Guidelines

The Bureau of Teacher Preparation and Certification is in the process of revising the CSPGs. These guidelines are what determine whether or not a teaching assignment is appropriate for a particular certificate. There was no anticipated release date provided.

NASBE Study

A study recently released by the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) shows that many State Boards across the country have student members who serve on their boards and the positive aspects of having their perspective. NASBE is offering a planning grant for states who are interested in considering adding students to their Boards. Francis Michelini, Esther Bush and Edith Isacke were appointed to submit an application to NASBE and investigate the feasibility of adding students to Pennsylvania's Board.

Report Estimates Teen Use Of Electronic Media

Results of the 2006 Teen Trend study indicate that U.S. teenagers spend more than 72 hours per week using electronic media, which includes the Internet, television, cell phones, video games, and music. The study, which is in its third year, was conducted by the Harrison Group and sponsored by VNU Business Media. Jim Taylor, vice chairman of the Harrison Group, said that the prevalence of these forms of media causes teens to see themselves as stars of their own reality television shows. "Teen life," he said, "has become a theatrical, self-directed media production." Among specific findings of the study: 68 percent of teens have profiles on social networking sites, about 75 percent spend two to three hours a day listening to or downloading online music, and about half of the teens who download music believe that it is legal.

— CNET

http://news.com.com/2100-1041_3-6141920.html