

IU13 GIFTED NETWORK

2021-2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

The Gifted Network was created as a professional learning community for teachers and supervisors of gifted students. IU13 formed this network specifically for the 22 school districts and is also available to nonpublic institutions in Lancaster and Lebanon counties. School districts outside IU13 are also welcome to participate as members.

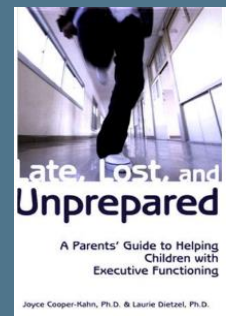
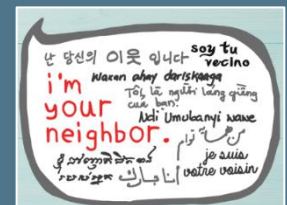
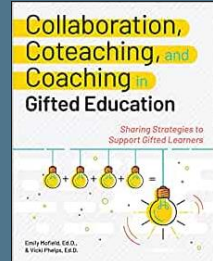
Each year, IU13 organizes at least four network meetings. These meetings address relevant topics in gifted education and provide a forum for discussion around current issues for gifted learners at the classroom, building, and district levels. Networking with others in the field of gifted education is an integral part of each meeting and allows for collaboration between participants. Online learning platforms developed for the network also foster communication and resource sharing across districts.

Gifted Network meetings support Chapter 16 requirements for professional development in gifted education. Regular education teachers are always welcome. PDE emphasizes the importance of collaboration between gifted support and regular education teachers in meeting the individual needs of gifted students.

§ 16.5. Personnel

(c) A school district and intermediate unit shall provide, under section 1205.1 of the School Code (24 P. S. § 12-1205.1), in-service training for gifted and regular teachers, principals, administrators, and support staff persons responsible for gifted education.

If selected for a compliance monitoring by PDE, the district will be asked for evidence that professional development in gifted education has been provided. Information will be gathered from the past two years prior to an audit. IU13 can provide documentation, as needed, demonstrating staff attendance at Gifted Network professional development opportunities.



Gifted Network Meetings & Collaborative Sessions 2021-2022

Collaboration Begins Here: We're Better Together

The meeting started out with a unique online experience called Heart Map, hosted by Kristen McQuillin, where teachers drew a map of their 'heart,' by exploring emotional awareness/intelligence while reinforcing geography and cartography. Later, Gifted Network members from Elizabethtown Area SD and Solanco SD led breakout groups of colleagues to begin initiatives to support general education teachers and parents. After lunch, Drs. Emily Mofield and Vicki Phelps, researchers and co-authors of Collaboration, Coteaching, and Coaching in Gifted Education, shared their practical approach for gifted support staff to work effectively with their general education colleagues.

Building Capacity to Support Higher Achieving Students: A Look at How PVAAS Can Support This Work / I'm Your Neighbor Library Presentation

PVAAS is a powerful tool to assist educators in planning instruction and resources to best meet the needs of students who have a history of higher achievement. And, it can also be a valuable tool, when used with other K-12 data, in helping identify students who may need additional services. During this interactive session with members of the PVAAS team, teachers were able to review several key reports that can be used to enhance and promote student growth for advanced learners.

Toni Martindell from IU13 introduced those in attendance to the "I'm Your Neighbor Welcoming Library." This special library uses children's literature to assist in creating welcoming spaces in the community for students who are new to the US.

Supporting Student Research, Building Enrichment Options, and Creating Academic Goals

At the morning session, special guest Cheryl Lederle and her colleagues from the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, joined the meeting for an interesting "tour" of the LOC website. It was a very informative session. In the afternoon Shirley Moyer from PDE joined the meeting via Zoom to answer questions about building enrichment projects, supporting independent projects, and the need to tie any projects addressed in goals to the areas of ELA, Math, and Science.

Understanding Executive Function

Dr. Joyce Cooper-Kahn, a licensed psychologist, provided an overview of executive functioning that sets the foundation for planning effective interventions for gifted students with weak executive skills. Using this base of knowledge, the group learned specific, practical strategies to help students be successful in the short term while facilitating long-term development of independent executive skills.

Year-End Reflection and Collaboration

At this final meeting, there were follow-up opportunities to reflect on the important topics and discussions from the 2021-2022 Gifted Network meetings. Also, time was spent looking at GIEP guidance from PDE.

What makes Gifted Network meetings valuable to you?

"I appreciate how IU13 invites nationally renowned speakers as presenters. I always walk away with multiple new ideas to try."

"The opportunity to reflect and collaborate with colleagues in job-alike positions across the IU is vital to improving services in our own district."

"Networking with professionals in the field of gifted education is helpful to learn of methods for delivery of services. Shirley Moyer's information, coming directly from PDE, is always the easiest way to keep up with the current regulations and trends required in our positions. This meeting is one of the network meetings I most look forward to attending!"

"Networking with job alike peers allows me some focused time in GIEP writing and collaborating on learners with challenging goals."

"Being fairly new to this position, the Gifted Network meetings provide great insight to how gifted services should work in our schools."

"The IU13 gifted networking community is a valuable resource, and I believe the support it provides strengthens gifted programming across our counties."

MEETING PLANS FOR 2022-2023

Thanks to requests and feedback from Gifted Network members, plans are already underway for next year. As always, offering meetings with relevant topics is key!

"Giftedness is a greater awareness, a greater sensitivity, and a greater ability to understand and transform perceptions into intellectual and emotional experiences."

- Dr. Annemarie Roeper, 1982

Gifted Network Feedback from Members

Collaboration Begins Here: We're Better Together

- I loved the collaboration and coaching session. It was so relevant to my job because it helped me find new ways to interact with classroom teachers.
- I realized how important it is for me to reach out to individual teachers to collaborate on helping learners meet their GIEP goals.
- A big theme in our department this year is spreading awareness of what we do and collaborating with general education teachers. Today's session helped me hear how others are working through those same processes.
- This meeting gave me ideas to conference with classroom teachers so that we can work together by using our strengths. I do not have to be an expert on their curriculum.
- I value all the resources provided that can be implemented tomorrow. I love this about our sessions. We can learn new strategies and start using them immediately.

Building Capacity to Support Higher Achieving Students: A Look at How PVAAS Can Support This Work / I'm Your Neighbor Library Presentation

- Looking at PVAAS data will help with PLEP in GIEP writing, assess if growth is happening with my caseload of students, and determine possible needs for future planning.
- As the writer of all elementary GIEPs, learning how to use PVAAS data to inform goal writing for learners is helpful. This morning has me curious about student projections specifically... especially when making decisions regarding recommendations for acceleration.
- This is the first I've had access to district level data, and it was helpful for me to see the whole scope of reports and have access to all my learners.
- I loved the idea of the "I'm your neighbor" library. I shared the information with both my gifted and ELD department as a possible candidate for our district's grant program.

Supporting Student Research, Building Enrichment Options, and Creating Academic Goals

- The presentation this morning by the three articulate and knowledgeable women from the Library of Congress was absolutely powerful and insightful, offering me resources that I will use immediately with the students I support.
- The presentation by the Library of Congress showed how we can access and utilize the library's online resources to encourage critical thinking, analysis, and discourse with our students. I could see application opportunities not only in gifted, but in all subject areas across all age levels. This was an incredibly valuable and engaging presentation.
- This activity presented resources, concepts, and ideas I could use with my gifted students or with any of my students as I deal with a range of students with a range of abilities. The concepts and resources presented could be slightly adapted to help any students, as it relies on best practices in education.

Understanding Executive Function

- Joyce's presentation was so refreshing! I loved viewing EF through Joyce's eyes and hearing how she supports students who need to understand where they are getting stuck and why.
- In working with gifted learners, I encounter many learners who also struggle with deficits in executive functioning skills. I was able to reflect upon specific learners throughout this session and think about how I might apply strategies to help them.
- I appreciated the intervention and support examples for each domain area of need. Often, we don't know where to start in terms of addressing and supporting student needs.

Year-End Reflection and Collaboration

- The Gifted Network offers high value in regard to learning and being brought up to date on current trends in gifted education in the nation and at the state level. Learning what other schools are implementing for their student K-12 helps us to know that we are on the right track and offer quality programs and experiences for our district.

Benefits of the IU13 Gifted Network

- Four half-day Gifted Network Meetings per year
- Connections with national leaders in gifted education
- Optional collaborative work sessions on meeting days
- IU13 Schoology site for Gifted Education: This online site allows members to easily access gifted resources and collaborate with other teachers in the network
- Personal support for new Gifted Support Teachers
- Inclusion on the IU13 Gifted Network distribution list which provides notifications of the following:
 - Local, statewide, and national opportunities for gifted students
 - Chapter 16 updates and training information from PDE
 - New PDE and ODR forms and documents
 - Updates on national, state, and local issues, resources, and research in gifted education

2021-22 Participating Members (88):

Annville-Cleona, Cocalico, Conestoga Valley, Donegal, Eastern Lancaster County (ELANCO), Eastern Lebanon County (ELCO), Eastern York, Elizabethtown Area, Ephrata Area, Hempfield, Lampeter-Strasburg, LC PAGE, Lebanon, Manheim Central, Manheim Township, Northern Lebanon, Palmyra Area, Penn Manor, Pequea Valley, Red Lion Area, Sacred Heart of Jesus School, School District of Lancaster, Solanco, Warwick

NEW Staff Joining Your Gifted Support Team for 2022-23?

Gifted Education in Pennsylvania: An annual training opportunity for new gifted support teachers has been scheduled for Fall 2022. IU13, IU12, and IU14 are planning a two-part collaborative session for September 22 and December 13, 2022. New or experienced teachers and administrators are welcome as Chapter 16 and GIEP development is reviewed. This training is an additional service that requires a registration fee for all participants. Click [here](#) for registration information or go to **IU13.org** and search "Gifted Education."

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