Bucks County Intermediate Unit

Bucks IU Everyday Impact

A summary of the latest news and events from the Bucks IU

September 2026

Student Stories

ESY Arts and Crafts at Fallsington Elementary

On the final day of ESY at Fallsington Elementary, students celebrated a successful summer with colorful arts and crafts alongside Bucks IU speech-language pathologists supporting the program. From practicing communication to creating something all their own, it was a fun way to wrap up five weeks of ESY.

Career Readiness Challenge at Samuel Everitt

Students at Bucks IU at Samuel Everitt put their skills to work with a hands-on challenge: building a tall freestanding tower using spaghetti and cereal. Along the way, they practiced the same competencies that matter beyond the classroom, including teamwork, communication, critical thinking, and leadership.

Activities like this give students the chance to solve problems together, test ideas, adjust when something doesn't work, and build skills they can carry into future workplaces and everyday life.

School is Back in Session

School is back in session! Backpacks on and ready for the school year ahead. Learners across Bucks IU are beginning a new school year filled with opportunity.

On Monday, August 31, students arrived for their first day of school at the new Middle Bucks Early Learning Center. Students were greeted warmly by staff before beginning a first day of learning in the completely new learning space.

From greetings at the door to time together in the classroom, the day marked the beginning of a building feeling like a school community.

Reporting for Duty!

At the new Middle Bucks Early Learning Center, trying on a police officer's hat or stepping into the role of a mail carrier is more than fun. Pretend play helps young children build creativity, communication, problem-solving, flexible thinking, and social-emotional skills.

The roles may be make believe, but the skills being developed are very real.

Adult Programs and Services

Volunteering at Habitat for Humanity

Each week, Bucks IU Adult Services participants volunteer at Habitat for Humanity ReStore, helping sort donated items, stock shelves, and keep the store organized and ready for shoppers.

It's hands-on experience that builds workplace skills, independence, and confidence while contributing to an organization that serves the community.

We're proud of the work our participants do each week and grateful to Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County for providing an opportunity to learn, flourish, and contribute.

Reaching New Heights with RJ

RJ of the Bucks IU SEQUEL Program has been taking on the challenge of rock climbing.

From finding the right handhold to figuring out the best route to the top, RJ is showing determination, focus, and a willingness to push himself outside his comfort zone.

We love seeing our SEQUEL participants discover new interests, build confidence, challenge themselves, and have fun along the way. Way to climb, RJ!

Musikfest in Bethlehem

Even one of the biggest live music festivals on the East Coast isn't a full-fledged party until the Bucks IU SEQUEL Squad shows up! SEQUEL participants went to Musikfest in Bethlehem, PA, to experience this Lehigh Valley tradition. From checking out live music and trying all kinds of delicious festival food to soaking up the sights, sounds, and culture, it was a day filled with community, connection, and FUN!

Because with SEQUEL, it's not just about going somewhere—it's about being part of the community and experiencing everything it has to offer!

From Garden to Table

The Bucks IU SEQUEL participants in Lower Bucks are putting their green thumbs to work! Our gardeners recently harvested their garden at the Falls Township Community Garden, and WOW—what a harvest!

We grew so many delicious tomatoes, along with a spectacular display of gorgeous sunflowers that made the garden shine.

Gardening is more than just growing vegetables. It's an opportunity to build independence, practice teamwork, connect with the community, and enjoy the rewards of hard work. We're proud of everything our SEQUEL participants have grown—both in the garden and in themselves!

One Last Game at The Game Is Afoot!

The Bucks IU SEQUEL participants had an absolute blast at The Game Is Afoot! Arcade in Warrington for one final gaming session before they closed their doors. From classic arcade games to newer favorites, our crew made sure to enjoy every last minute!

What better way to say goodbye than by showing up on their very last day of operations and playing one more round? Thank you to The Game Is Afoot! for all the fun, memories, and good times.

Welcome Back Project SEARCH

August 31 marked the start of another exciting year for Project SEARCH. We are thrilled to welcome our new interns and returning team as we kick off a new year of learning, growth, and employment success. Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Supporting Schools & Districts

Back-To-School Emergency Preparedness Tips

A new school year is a good time to make sure your child knows the basics that can make a big difference in an emergency:

- Their address
- Your full name and phone number
- How to reach a trusted adult
- When and how to call 911

A few quick conversations can help students head back to school feeling prepared and confident.

Find more back-to-school safety tips from the American Red Cross.

Bucks IU Facilitated Student Programs and Events

Each year, thousands of Bucks County students find opportunities to read, create, design, invent, lead, collaborate, and compete through student experiences facilitated by the Programs & Services Division at the Bucks IU.

There's Reading Olympics, bringing together 3,000+ readers; the STEM Design Challenge, with more than 500 young problem-solvers; and opportunities spanning the PA Invention Convention, Media and Design Competition, Bucks County Student Forum, student artwork exhibitions, Art on the Move, and more.

From elementary school through high school, these experiences give students across Bucks County more ways to explore their interests, share their talents, take on new challenges, and connect with peers beyond their own schools.

Professional Learning

Related Services Induction

During Related Services induction, new professionals came together to connect with their colleagues, learn more about the supports and resources available to them, and prepare to serve students across Bucks County.

From speech and language to occupational and physical therapy, hearing, vision, and other specialized supports, our Related Services professionals bring expertise that helps students access learning and make meaningful progress.

We're excited to welcome the newest members of this multidisciplinary team and see the impact they'll make throughout the year!

Early Childhood Teacher and Therapist Induction

A warm welcome to the newest teachers and therapists joining the Bucks IU Early Childhood Program! During induction, new team members learned more about the IU and the Early Childhood Program while beginning to build the relationships that will support them throughout their work with children and families. We're excited to have you on the team!

Bucks IU Opening Day

Bucks IU staff came together for Opening Day 2026, beginning the new school year as one coordinated team. Through music, connection, and keynote remarks from Brian Buffington, the day highlighted how each person's expertise contributes to the meaningful support Bucks IU provides for students across Bucks County.

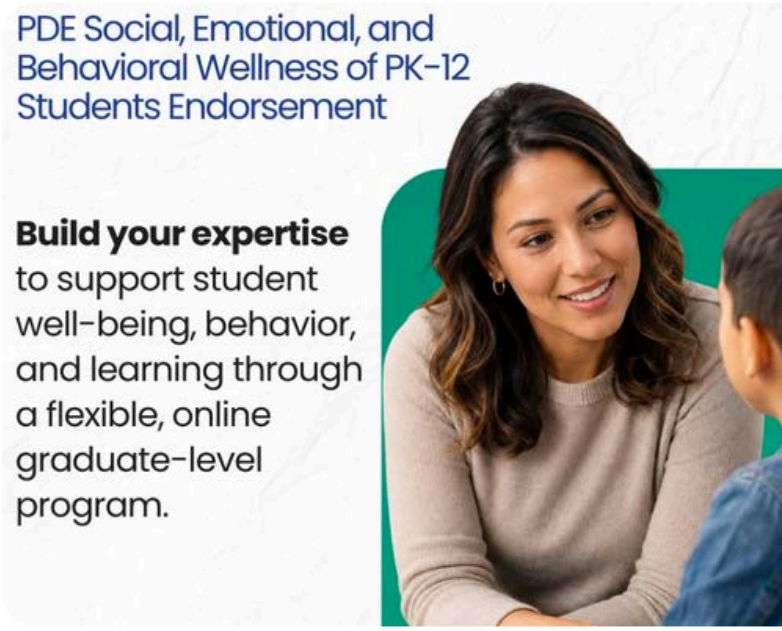
Now our teams are heading back to school across dozens of school buildings and 13 school districts, ready to make every moment count. We're ready for you, 2026-2027!

SEL Endorsement

Build the knowledge and practical strategies to better support students' social, emotional and behavioral wellness.

The Bucks IU's flexible, online endorsement program is designed for PK-12 educators, administrators, school counselors and social workers. Complete all four courses to earn the PDE Social, Emotional and Behavioral Wellness of PK-12 Students Endorsement. Courses do not need to be taken sequentially.

Learn more and register on EventHub.



Strengthening Communication Access for Students Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

When students can fully access communication, they can participate more confidently, advocate for what they need, and engage more deeply in learning.

Recent professional learning brought together Bucks IU Educational Interpreters, Deaf Education Teachers, Captionists, and Educational Audiologists to explore assistive technology and research-based practices for supporting students who are Deaf or hard of hearing.

Staff experienced a challenge that required them to communicate without voice, sign language, or gestures, prompting deeper conversations about communication barriers and access. They also learned alongside Neil McDevitt, executive director of the Deaf-Hearing Communication Centre, about helping students strengthen their independence and self-advocacy in school.

Showcasing Staff

Technology Team Conference Room Upgrades

The Bucks IU Technology Team has been busy behind the scenes refreshing conference room technology throughout the 705 Administration Building. Now live, the updated spaces give staff and guests more flexible, reliable ways to connect and collaborate.

Payroll Team Recognition

There's a lot that goes into making sure every paycheck is right and on time.

Behind the scenes, the Bucks IU Payroll Team manages countless details with accuracy, consistency, and care, supporting our staff and keeping an essential part of our organization running smoothly.

This week, we're giving a well-earned shout-out to the team behind the paycheck. Thank you for the work you do for Bucks IU employees all year long!

Facilities Team Prepares Buildings for School

Shiny floors are just one of the hallmark signs of the work that happens behind the scenes to get ready for a new school year.

Thank you to our Facilities team for preparing Bucks IU buildings and making sure every space is ready to welcome students and staff for the new year.

Staff Back-to-school Sunglasses Video

The shades are on. The smiles are ready.

Bucks IU team members are getting ready to welcome a new school year and everything 2026-2027 has in store.

We're ready for another year of learning and making a difference for students and families across Bucks County.

Bucks IU at Samuel Everitt Welcome Back Video

Opening Week is a wrap, and Bucks IU staff are ready for another great year.

After a week of staff professional learning, reconnecting, and getting ready together, there's just one thing missing: our students.

We're looking forward to welcoming them back across Bucks IU programs and locations next week. See you soon!

Bucks IU at Samuel Everitt First Day of School

The students weren't the only ones excited for the first day of school!

Our Bucks IU at Samuel Everitt staff brought smiles and school spirit for students on their first day of school. We're so happy to have our Everitt Wolves back together!

Middle Bucks ELC Staff Prepare for First Day at New Building

Before the school year began, staff at the brand new Middle Bucks Early Learning Center came together for the first time to prepare their new building for children. They got acquainted, unpacked boxes, set up classrooms, and worked as a team to create welcoming learning spaces.

Their hard work helped make the center's first day with children on August 31 a special one.

Community Partnerships

Head Start Visit with Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick and Assistant Secretary Adams

What makes Head Start so powerful is the support surrounding each child and their entire family.

During a visit to the Bucks IU Lower Southampton Early Learning Center, Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick and Dr. Alex Adams, Assistant Secretary for Children and Families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, chatted with children, joined them for lunch, and read "Monsters Don't Eat Broccoli."

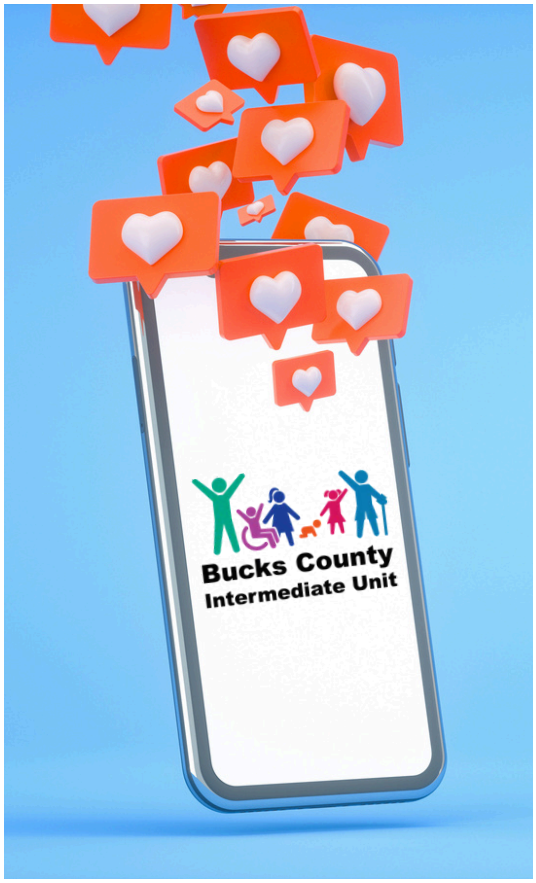
They also heard directly from families and staff during a roundtable conversation. One parent shared how one of the benefits of Head Start through Bucks IU is the integration of speech services through the program. A teacher, herself a former Head Start student and parent, spoke about how Head Start helped her understand her own son's developmental milestones and connect her family with resources. The group also discussed workforce needs to sustain the full range of services Head Start provides.

Their stories showed what Head Start does so well: support children, strengthen families, and make an impact across generations.

Make an Impact with Bucks IU

The Bucks IU recruitment team works to hire personnel year-round, and you can help! By sharing our social media posts, job listings, or Monday Moments, you can spread the word and help your friends and families find their next position.

Visit
BucksIU.org/Careers



Be In-the-Know About Bucks IU

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