



Bucks County Intermediate Unit
705 N. Shady Retreat Rd.
Doylestown PA 18901

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For Immediate Release:

Bucks IU 24th Annual Transition Fair Helps Students with Special Needs Prepare for Their Futures

November 26, 2024 - Doylestown PA: The Bucks County Intermediate Unit (Bucks IU) hosted its annual Secondary Transition Options and Resource Fair (STORF) on Wednesday, November 6th. Transition services play a crucial role in preparing students with special needs for life after high school graduation. Designed specifically to support students and their families, STORF provides vital connections and information to navigate the challenges of this important life transition.

“Once students receive a diploma, they move from a school system where they are entitled to services into the adult world, where they must be deemed eligible for support,” explained Jamie Lill, Bucks IU Program and



Shreya Bhaksar, from Woods Services, meets with a student from the Council Rock School District.

Bucks County Intermediate Unit

SECONDARY TRANSITION OPTIONS & RESOURCE FAIR

This annual transition fair is held to help connect students, families and educators with resources that can assist navigating the transition process from school to adulthood. Representatives from agencies and schools will be in person to provide information in all areas of transition.

Resources include:

- Post-Secondary Education & Training
- Employment
- Independent Living
- Community Resources
- Legal, Financial & Life Planning

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH 2024
5:30PM - 8:00PM

This event will be held at the Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22

215-348-2940 705 N. Shady Retreat Road Doylestown, PA 18901

Denise Harman Dharman@BucksIU.org
Jamie Lill JLill@BucksIU.org

Training Specialist. “Funding for, and access to, services is limited, so these connections need to be established well before graduation.”

Lill encourages families to start attending transition fairs when students turn 14—the age when Pennsylvania requires transition planning sessions to be included in a student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP).



Tables set-up featured information about a wide variety of programs and topics. Shawn Chambers and Evan Salom, from the Bucks County Office of Behavioral Health offered a presentation on Bucks County Developmental Programs.



This year marks the 24th annual STORF event hosted by the Bucks IU. The fair featured a range of service providers,

offering options such as post-secondary education and training, employment support, and independent living resources. Participants included organizations like the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Bucks County Department of Behavioral Health/Developmental Programs, Bucks County Center for Independent Living, and Tina DiBiaso, a parent who began attending

transition fairs several years ago to prepare for her son Sean’s post-graduation needs, shared her experience: “Every year I attended, I learned something new. Often, there was a new provider or program represented. This event is always worth attending.”

DiBiaso now works as a Resource and Strategy Advisor for The Next Step Programs in Doylestown, an organization offering employment, community participation, and social opportunities for post-graduates. She continues to attend STORF to introduce new clients to her organization and connect families to essential resources.

“This fair gives individuals with special needs and their families the chance to meet and talk with numerous organizations that can help plan for adult life in the community,” DiBiaso said. “Only through thoughtful planning can an individual build a meaningful life after high school. This event is centrally located and accessible to everyone in Bucks County and nearby areas.”

She emphasized the unique value of the fair: “This is the one event each year that brings together most of the key entities critical to supporting transition-age individuals and their families. For any organization serving this population, it’s the best in-person event in Bucks County to share their vision and purpose.”

The annual STORF program is organized by Bucks IU Program and Training Specialists Jamie Lill and Denise Harmon. The team continually seeks new businesses and organizations to participate in the fair. Interested parties should contact Denise Harmon at DHarmon@BucksIU.org for more information.

For additional details about transition services in Bucks County, please visit www.bucksiu.org/Transition. Statewide resources can be found at www.pasecondarytransition.com.

Content submitted by Joan Hellyer, Bucks IU Paraeducator.

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ABOUT THE BUCKS COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT (Bucks IU):

Celebrating over 50 years of service! The Bucks IU supports improvements and advancements in student learning by providing exceptional educational programs, innovative professional development, and advanced business/technology services. We serve people from ages birth through adults, students in public and private schools along with their staff and administrators, and the community of Bucks County. The Bucks IU is also the liaison between local schools and the Pennsylvania Department of Education. For more information, go to www.BucksIU.org or call 215-348-2940.