126 Programs
21,596 Students Served
1,341 Adults Served
92 Grants Running

About the CCIU
The Chester County Intermediate Unit provides services to the 12 school districts in Chester County. This includes services to nearly 86,000 public and non-public school students and over 6,000 educators. CCIU’s major services include: special education and compensatory education programs; career, technical and customized education; online learning; mentor training and staff development; technology initiatives; consortia for school business operations; and curriculum services.

In Review
The Chester County Intermediate Unit’s (CCIU) Legislative Quarterly Reports include timely updates on important local interests and opposition impacting public education to promote the continuation of effective and informed legislation.

This quarterly report includes information on the continued support and services provided to Chester County students, families and the community amid the COVID-19 pandemic as well as a CCIU COVID-19 year in review, highlights of upcoming summer program offerings and a call to support funding for intermediate units.

Summary
An equal opportunity employer and educator
A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Through education, the possibilities of our students, and our world, are truly endless. At the CCIU, our mission is to enhance the lives of all students and members of our communities. As an organization, we have remained flexible, strategic, and optimistic in our programming in order to serve our students and community, even as we face challenges. In an effort to continue to enhance our students’ lives and possibilities, I’d like to take this opportunity to share several CCIU initiatives, programs and projects that are relevant to ongoing conversations regarding education practice and policy. Together, we look toward growing from the changes brought on by this past year.

I also thank you, our legislative partners, for your continued support of the CCIU, our school districts and, most importantly, our students and families. In a year where we navigated unimaginable circumstances, we are especially grateful for your partnership, dedication and assistance. Should you need any additional information or wish to visit any of our facilities, please contact my office at 484-237-5010.

DR. GEORGE F. FIORE

COVID-19 Year In Review

The year 2020 brought so much uncertainty to our world, but it also brought schools and communities closer together to help those in need. From the outset of the mandated school closure in March 2020 until now, the CCIU has served 21,596 students throughout Chester County, welcomed 4,116 new Brandywine Virtual Academy students, which is an increase of 264%; and delivered 2,043 laptops, iPads, Chromebooks and hardware, software, connectivity and technical assistance. Developed and provided technology supports for schools and families across the state in the form of distribution of materials.

COVID-19 Vaccine Hub Stats

The CCIU served 275,000 meals that served 560 students each week; welcomed 4,216 new Brandywine Virtual Academy students, which is an increase of 264%; and delivered 2,043 laptops, iPads, Chromebooks and hotspots to students and their families.

COVID Relief Funding

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the CCIU continued to provide services to students, educators and to school districts. In order to do so, the CCIU had to purchase Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff and students; provide technology and support to staff, students and schools; and continue to provide food services. The CCIU, like all intermediate units (IUs), have done this without additional state or federal funds as IUs did not receive ESSER funding, CARES dollars or Act 1 monies. Unlike school districts, the state and the federal government, IUs do not have taxing powers. We need our Pennsylvania legislators to pass House Bill 917, which provides additional emergency education relief to IUs for costs incurred due to their COVID-19 response.

The CCIU has continued to provide in-person and virtual instruction to thousands of students with disabilities, and statewide leadership and supports to public schools, charter schools, private schools and career and technical schools, despite incurring financial losses. Examples of statewide services include:

- Hosted and managed vaccination clinics that resulted in over 125,000 educators statewide receiving the Johnson & Johnson vaccination.
- Provided online learning opportunities to 36 schools districts throughout southeastern, central and western PA.
- Developed and provided technology supports for schools and families across the state in the form of hardware, software, connectivity and technical assistance.
- Provided fiscal management support for public and non-public schools regarding COVID-19 funds.
- Administered collaborative procurement for PPE and COVID-specific cleaning supplies, as well as distribution of materials.

CCIU Summer Programs

During the summer of 2021, the CCIU’s schools and programs will offer the following sessions for students and adults:

- Brandywine Virtual Academy: Jump Start, Credit Recovery, True Summer and Pathblazer
- Technical College High School (TCHS) Summer Career Academies and Adult Education Programs for Careers
- Extended School Year for the Child and Career Development Center and the CCIU Learning Center
- Preschool Special Education
- 21st Century Summer program

We invite our legislators to visit our buildings this summer to see first-hand the educational programming provided to our students. If you would like to schedule a tour, please contact Mary Curley, CCIU director of communications and learning solutions, at MaryC@cciu.org. For more information about our summer programs, please visit: www.cciu.org.

A CALL TO SUPPORT FUNDING FOR IU COVID RELIEF, PRESCHOOL EARLY INTERVENTION AND MENTAL HEALTH

COVID Relief Funding

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the CCIU continued to provide services to students, educators and to school districts. In order to do so, the CCIU had to purchase Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff and students; provide technology and support to staff, students and schools; and continue to provide food services. The CCIU, like all intermediate units (IUs), have done this without additional state or federal funds as IUs did not receive ESSER funding, CARES dollars or Act 1 monies. Unlike school districts, the state and the federal government, IUs do not have taxing powers. We need our Pennsylvania legislators to pass House Bill 917, which provides additional emergency education relief to IUs for costs incurred due to their COVID-19 response.

The CCIU has continued to provide in-person and virtual instruction to thousands of students with disabilities, and statewide leadership and supports to public schools, charter schools, private schools and career and technical schools, despite incurring financial losses. Examples of statewide services include:

- Hosted and managed vaccination clinics that resulted in over 125,000 educators statewide receiving the Johnson & Johnson vaccination.
- Provided online learning opportunities to 36 schools districts throughout southeastern, central and western PA.
- Developed and provided technology supports for schools and families across the state in the form of hardware, software, connectivity and technical assistance.
- Provided fiscal management support for public and non-public schools regarding COVID-19 funds.
- Administered collaborative procurement for PPE and COVID-specific cleaning supplies, as well as distribution of materials.

Key Takeways

- The current Preschool Early Intervention funding equals $325,500,000, which is spread over 20 IUs statewide.
- Governor’s Request: $336,000,000, which represent a 3.37% or $11,000,000 increase.

Please support the Governor’s early intervention funding increase.

Preschool Early Intervention Funding

Many young children are in need of additional instruction and service opportunities to make up for what was lost during the COVID-19 pandemic. There has been an increase in federal and state pressure to serve children in the daycare and home setting rather than in specialized classrooms, and there is a growing number of children being served who require multiple, costly services. As a result, costs are increasing and, therefore, Preschool Early Intervention funding is needed to keep pace with these rising costs.

The CCIU served 22,596 students during the 2020-21 school year. The CCIU special education program provided in-person services to 10,573 students throughout Chester County, 2,213 of which were preschool special education students; however, the CCIU has not received ESSER III funding or Act 1 funding to defray these costs incurred from providing services throughout the pandemic.