



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **FAYETTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS APPROVE FORMATION OF NEW EDUCATIONAL AUTHORITY TO STRENGTHEN WORKFORCE AND EXPAND LOCAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Uniontown, PA** – Following a unanimous vote this morning, the Fayette County Board of Commissioners officially approved the formation of the Fayette County Educational Authority, a new municipal authority designed to expand educational opportunities, enhance workforce development, and support long-term economic growth across the county.

Created under the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Act, the Authority will serve as a dedicated entity to plan, develop, operate, and support educational facilities, programs, and partnerships throughout Fayette County.

The creation of the Authority will not incur any additional cost, as all legal work associated with its formation is part of the routine responsibilities of the County Solicitor.

The Commissioners emphasized that today's action follows extensive discussion and analysis by the Eberly Campus Transition Team, which has been meeting regularly to assess the educational impacts of the Penn State Fayette closure. They noted that the creation of the Educational Authority is not a replacement for the departing institution, but an early step in a much longer process to protect and expand educational opportunities in the county.

"Today's vote represents a landmark moment for Fayette County," said Commission Chairman Scott Dunn. "The creation of the Educational Authority gives us the structure we need to innovate and expand educational and workforce opportunities for every resident. This is about securing a stronger future for our families and our economy."

The Fayette County Educational Authority will be able to develop, fund, and manage a variety of projects that strengthen local education and workforce opportunities from early childhood and career-technical facilities to adult training centers, digital learning hubs, technology infrastructure, and collaborative programs with schools, colleges, and community partners.

The Authority will be able to secure grants, invest in capital improvements, and partner with public and private institutions to meet the evolving needs of residents and employers.

"This Authority positions us to be nimble, strategic, and future-focused. For years, we have heard from employers who need skilled workers and from families who want better local options for education and training. Today, we are answering that call," said Commission Vice-Chairman, Vince Vicites.

Commissioners noted that the impending closure of Penn State Fayette, the county's only four-year degree-granting campus, intensifies the need for bold, collaborative strategies to expand local education and workforce opportunities.

"Our residents deserve access to high-quality educational opportunities right here at home," said Commissioner Harry Kaufman. "This Authority allows us to build partnerships, reimagine facilities, and create the kinds of programs that will help retain our young people and attract new investment to Fayette County."

With the vote now complete:

- The Articles of Incorporation for the Fayette County Educational Authority will be filed with the Pennsylvania Department of State.
- The five initial board members who were appointed today will begin organizing, electing officers, and adopting bylaws.
- The Authority will begin identifying priority projects and partnership opportunities across the county.

The Fayette County Board of Commissioners is committed to advancing economic development, strengthening communities, and improving residents' quality of life. The creation of the Fayette County Educational Authority aligns with ongoing efforts to expand learning pathways, support employers, and prepare the county for long-term growth.

To learn more about Fayette County, visit [www.fayettecountypa.org](http://www.fayettecountypa.org).

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For more information, contact Commissioner Scott Dunn at 724-430-1200, [sdunn@fayettepa.org](mailto:sdunn@fayettepa.org) or Rick Fike, Public Relations Specialist, at 724-437-4571, [rfike@fayettecountypa.info](mailto:rfike@fayettecountypa.info)