

PaTTAN

Pennsylvania Training and
Technical Assistance Network

*Leading and
Serving the
Educational
Community*



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Bureau of Special Education
Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network

Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN)

What is the Pennsylvania Department of Education's (PDE) mission?

PDE's mission is to lead and serve the educational community to enable each individual to grow into an inspired, productive, fulfilled, lifelong learner. In order to achieve this mission, all PDE initiatives, supports, professional development activities, and plans have been developed and implemented with this goal as the focal point.

Pennsylvania's education system serves 1.8 million students with over 271,000 or 15.2 percent eligible for special education services and supports. It consists of 500 school districts and over 100 charter schools spread out over more than 46,000 miles. This large and diverse system requires that the PDE work closely with many partners to effectively support the diverse needs and characteristics of the commonwealth's educators. One of the partners who works closely with PDE to build capacity is the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN).

What is PaTTAN's relationship to PDE?

PaTTAN is an initiative of the Bureau of Special Education (BSE) within the PDE. The purpose of PaTTAN is to support the efforts and initiatives of the BSE, and to build the capacity of local education agencies (LEAs) to serve students who receive special education services and supports or who are at risk for needing special education. While PaTTAN is a statewide network of support, there are three regional offices (Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, and King of Prussia), which permit regionalization within a consistent statewide message.

What is PaTTAN's relationship to intermediate units?

Key to the effectiveness of the PaTTAN system is a robust partnership with the 29 intermediate units (IUs). Each IU receives support to fund Training and Consultant (TAC) staff who work closely with PaTTAN staff. PaTTAN supports the TAC staff through a train-the-trainer process to build the TAC staff capacity to support their LEAs. TAC staff rely on PaTTAN staff for new initiatives and for supporting the most challenging student and education issues. Together, PaTTAN and TAC staffs provide an effective regional and statewide network of support and services for educators, parents and students, and schools providing special education services.

In addition, each PaTTAN office works with an IU, which provides administrative oversight for that office. This means that while the work of the PaTTAN offices is directed by the BSE, they adhere to the fiscal and personnel requirements of their administrative IU. The Pittsburgh office is administered by Intermediate Unit One. The Harrisburg office is administered by Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13, and the King of Prussia office is administered by Montgomery County Intermediate Unit 23.

Each PaTTAN office has a director, who works closely with both the BSE and their local IU to ensure effective and efficient operation of the office. The director supervises the work of the staff, which includes professional staff with extensive expertise and proven experience in working effectively with students, schools, parents, administrators, and others.

What does PaTTAN do?

Professional Development

PaTTAN provides a full array of professional development and technical assistance targeted to improving student results. This professional development and technical assistance takes many forms in order to meet the varied needs of PaTTAN's constituents. Week-long summer institutes, ongoing professional development



PaTTAN by the Numbers

- In a typical year, PaTTAN provides over 1800 professional development activities to over 130,000 individuals.
- This means that each day, the PaTTAN system is providing approximately 14 professional development activities to over 1,000 individuals.
- In a typical year, PaTTAN develops over 200 new or revised publications and disseminates them to over 380,000 individuals.



series, webinars, on-site assistance, and individual student or teacher supports are some of the means by which PaTTAN provides services to schools.

Federal-State Regulations

One of the major responsibilities of the PaTTAN network is to assist the BSE with its role in meeting federal and state special education regulations. PaTTAN works closely with the BSE in developing the needed professional development and services for Pennsylvania to meet its requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Chapter 14 of the Pennsylvania School Code. These services include professional development that is linked to the 20 Indicators required in the State Performance Plan, the development of compliant special education forms, the annual collection of student data, and the monitoring system used by the BSE to address IDEA and Chapter 14 requirements. In addition, PaTTAN assists the BSE in its response to complex legal cases.

Assistive Technology and Accessible Instructional Materials

PaTTAN maintains a short-term loan library, which offers a broad array of assistive technology devices. These assistive technology devices are borrowed by LEAs and are used to determine the appropriateness of a particular device for an individual student, prior to the LEA or parent purchasing the equipment. In addition, the PaTTAN Accessible Instructional Materials Center provides large print and Braille text materials to students who are blind or visually impaired. PaTTAN represents the Department of Education as the Ex-Officio Trustee with the responsibility of managing and coordinating federal quota funds with the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) for the purchase of text and educational supplies for students who are legally blind. PaTTAN also maintains an annual census of children from birth through twenty-one who are legally blind and provides an annual report of eligible students to APH.

Website Resources

PaTTAN maintains a robust website (www.pattan.net) that features training opportunities, resources, and publications that address relevant topics; short-term loan kits; and, access to other educational partners supporting student learning and achievement.

Initiatives

PaTTAN provides support to schools, parents, educators, students, and administrators on the following topics:

- Assistive Technology Services, including Short-term Loan of Equipment
- Autism
- Data Analysis and Planning
- Educational Interpreters
- Effective Instruction
- Inclusive Practices
- Meeting Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in Reading and Math

- Paraprofessional Training
- Pennsylvania Value Added Assessment System (PVAAS)
- Response to Instruction and Intervention (RtII)
- Schoolwide Positive Behavior Support
- Secondary Transition
- Sensory Impairments (Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Blind and Visually Impaired, Deafblind)
- Special Education Leadership Training and Mentoring
- Special Education Policies, Laws, and Procedures

- Speech and Language
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Tutoring

Ultimately, the focus of PaTTAN's work is on building the capacity of LEAs to provide effective instructional practices for all students. In order to do this, PaTTAN provides training and technical assistance that is framed by Pennsylvania's Standards Aligned System (SAS). The SAS is a collaborative product of research and good practice that identifies six distinct elements, which if utilized together, will provide schools and districts with a common framework for continuous enhancement and improvement. For more information about SAS, visit www.pdesas.org.



Scan the QR code with your smartphone to go directly to the PaTTAN website (www.pattan.net).

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