

Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN)

Ensuring quality education
for all students.



PaTTAN works closely with the Pennsylvania Department of Education to ensure that all students, including students with disabilities, receive a high-quality education that prepares them for meaningful opportunities in post-secondary life.

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Pennsylvania's education system consists of over 600 local educational agencies (LEAs) spread out over more than 46,000 miles. These LEAs serve 1.8 million students with over 271,000 or 15.2 percent eligible for special education services and supports. This large and diverse system requires that the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) work closely with many partners to effectively support the diverse needs and characteristics of the commonwealth's educators. The Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) is one of the partners that works closely with PDE to ensure that all students, including students with disabilities, receive a quality education that prepares them for meaningful opportunities in post-secondary life.

PaTTAN's role is to support the efforts and initiatives of the Bureau of Special Education (BSE), and to build the capacity of local educational agencies (LEAs) to provide effective instructional practices for all students.

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

One of PaTTAN's primary responsibilities 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.

Key to the effectiveness of the PaTTAN system is a robust partnership with the 29 intermediate units (IUs). Each IU receives federal support to fund training and consulting staff (TaCs) who work closely with

PaTTAN staff. PaTTAN supports the TaCs through a train-the-trainer process to build the TaCs' capacity to support their LEAs. TaCs rely on PaTTAN staff for new initiatives and for supporting the most challenging student and education issues. Together, PaTTAN and TaCs provide an effective regional and statewide network of support and services for educators, parents and students, and schools providing special education services.

Visit PaTTAN's website at **www.pattan.net** to access:

- Information about PaTTAN's initiatives
- Training opportunities
- Publications
- Short-term loan for assistive technology
- Accessible instructional materials