

Pennsylvania Fellowship Program for Special Education Leaders

Welcoming Cohort 14 Applicants
2023-2024

PaTTAN Leadership Initiative

Achieving Balance:



PaTTAN
Pennsylvania Training and
Technical Assistance Network

Pennsylvania Fellowship Program for Special Education Leaders

The Pennsylvania Fellowship Program (PFP) for Special Education Leaders is a year-long comprehensive continuum of professional development that will result in a systematic view of special education while building the leadership capacity of the participant. Fellows are engaged in learning, networking, and mentoring opportunities built to enhance their capacity and promote effective programming to ensure success for all students with disabilities. The PFP is designed specifically for special education leaders with three or less years of experience in their current role. While individuals hold many different titles within Pennsylvania local educational agencies including: special education director, special education supervisor, special education coordinator, and director of pupil services, a special education leader is defined as someone who has primary responsibility for the oversight of special education supports, programs, and services within a local education agency. As such, anyone holding these responsibilities is encouraged to apply for the PFP.

The goals of the PFP for Special Education Leaders are to:

- Increase the skills and knowledge of legal issues and reporting procedures required in special education.
- Build and support a cadre of special education leaders who can achieve improved results for all students with disabilities.
- Develop a culture of learning and teaching within LEAs so all staff have the knowledge and skills to support students with disabilities.
- Promote the development of a network of collaborative relationships with professionals in similar positions from across the state.

General Information:

- Individuals accepted into the program will learn practical ways to improve outcomes for students with disabilities in addition to improving their LEA's ability to be compliant with state and federal regulations.
- The PFP is grounded in the principles of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) and the Council for Administrators of Special Education (CASE) and is aligned with the Pennsylvania Inspired Leadership (PIL) standards.

How is the Pennsylvania Fellowship Program for Special Education Leaders different from other professional development programs?

- PFP Fellows have the opportunity to form relationships with key staff members of Pennsylvania's State System of Support, including stakeholders from the PA Department of Education (PDE), the Bureau of Special Education (BSE), and the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN).
- The connections between CEC - CASE principles, special education law, and collegial learning serve as the underpinnings of this program.
- Each Fellow will be paired with a mentor to receive support, ideas, and resources.
- Participation in the PFP is determined through an application process. To effectively deliver customized training and mentoring, the PFP is limited in the number of selected participants.

What topics will be included in the professional development learning?

- Tapping Pennsylvania's Special Education Resources
- Creating Your Special Education Program Landscape
- Building an Effective Special Education Infrastructure
- Navigating the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) to Ensure Equitable Practices
- Fostering High Expectations While Presuming Competence
- Using Collaborative Team Structures
- Programming Considerations for Students with Low Incidence Disabilities
- Planning for Student Success Through Effective Academic and Behavioral Programming

What is my commitment as a PFP Special Education Fellow?

- Provide the payment for the registration fee of \$450. The registration fee covers the cost of meals at the in-person sessions and the registration fees for the CASE Conference, PDE Annual Conference, and the PA Special Education Leadership Academy. Travel expenses, including hotel accommodations, may also be paid by the employer.
- Attend all professional development sessions as outlined on page 4 of this document. Attendance for the duration of all sessions is expected.
- Attend The Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) conference November 8-10, 2023, at the David L. Convention Center in Pittsburgh, PA. Registration costs are included in the Fellowship fee.
- Attend the PA Department of Education Conference February 28-March 1, 2024, at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, PA. Registration costs are included in the Fellowship fee.
- Attend the Special Education Leadership Academy July 9-11, 2024, at the Wyndham Gettysburg. Registration costs are included in the Fellowship fee.
- Complete reflection and implementation activities based on student or programmatic data that illustrates one or more systemic impact(s) for students with disabilities.
- Engage in collegial conversations with your assigned mentor throughout the school year.

How will my LEA benefit from my participation in the PFP?

Your LEA will acquire a special education leader who will:

- Develop and implement quality programs that improve the achievement of students with disabilities.
- Balance compliance and lead improvement while working within the standards and policies of the profession.
- Be part of an expanded network of practicing special education leaders working toward advancing their knowledge and skills.

What is my employer's contribution in support of my participation in the PFP?

- Provide release time for participation in all PFP professional development sessions and conferences, as related to the PFP.
- Provide the payment for the registration fee of \$450. The registration fee covers the cost of meals at the in-person sessions and the registration fees for the CASE Conference, PDE Annual Conference, and the PA Special Education Leadership Academy. Travel expenses, including hotel accommodations, may also be paid by the employer.

Does participation in the PFP qualify for Act 48?

Yes, Act 48 hours are awarded for each PFP session. There are 42 hours available for this program. Should the 2023-2024 Pennsylvania Fellowship Program be affected by unforeseen events, program adjustments may be necessary.

You are invited to apply if you have:

- A full-time professional special education administrative position with three or less years in your current administrative role.
- The endorsement of your LEA/Charter executive.
- The ability to attend all professional development sessions as outlined on page four of this document.
- A commitment to discover your own personal and professional potential; foster growth and achievement for students with disabilities; and an interest in building a community of practice composed of other special education leaders.

To apply for the 2023-2024 Pennsylvania Fellowship Program for Special Education Leaders, complete an application by close of business on Thursday, August 31, 2023. To access the application, use the following link: <https://forms.gle/TzM7Bczzg6pNHgSM8>.

Please share the following link with your superintendent/chief executive officer to complete the Assurance-Endorsement of the Superintendent/Employer Representative form on your behalf: <https://forms.gle/FKERgqLuSZXGCR7t9>.

All applicants will be notified of their status by Friday, September 8, 2023.

Direct questions regarding the Pennsylvania Fellowship Program to:

Darla Bryant
Western Region
dbryant@pattanpgh.net

Nichole Kopco
Central Region
nkopco@pattan.net

Kim Cole
Eastern Region
kcole@pattan.net

Pennsylvania Fellowship Program for Special Education Leaders

2023-2024 Calendar

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
September 20, 2023	Virtual	11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
October 3, 2023	Live at the PaTTAN Harrisburg Office	12:30 PM to 4:15 PM
October 4, 2023	Live at the PaTTAN Harrisburg Office	8:15 AM to 12:00 PM
November 7, 2023	Live in Pittsburgh (prior to CASE Conference)	6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
November 8, 2023	Live in Pittsburgh (prior to CASE Conference)	8:30 AM to 11:30 AM
November 8 - November 10, 2023 CASE Conference- Building Bridges- "From Vision to Practice"	Live at the David L. Lawrence Center, Pittsburgh, PA	TBA
December 14, 2023	Virtual	8:30 AM to 11:45 AM
January 24, 2024	Virtual	8:30 AM to 11:45 AM
February 27, 2024	Live at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center (prior to PDE conference)	1:00 PM to 4:15 PM
February 28, 2024	Live at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center (prior to PDE conference)	8:00 AM to 11:15 AM
February 28 - March 1, 2024 PDE Annual Conference- Making a Difference: Educational Practices That Work	Live at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center	TBA
May 15, 2024	Virtual	12:30 PM to 3:45 PM
May 16, 2024	Virtual	8:30 AM to 11:45 AM
July 8, 2024	Live at the Wyndham Gettysburg (prior to Leadership Academy)	5:00 PM to 6:30 PM
July 9, 2024	Live at the Wyndham Gettysburg (prior to Leadership Academy)	8:30 AM to 10:30 AM
July 9 - July 11, 2024 Pennsylvania Special Education Leadership Academy	Live at the Wyndham Gettysburg	TBA