

PaTTAN Leadership Initiative

Achieving Balance:



# 2022 Pennsylvania Special Education Leadership Academy

Connecting Through Challenge,  
Change, and Opportunity

July 19 - 21, 2022

**The 2022 Special Education Leadership Academy is offered in a hybrid format – in-person at Seven Springs Mountain Resort, 777 Water Wheel Drive, Champion, PA 15622 or online through Zoom.**

## About the Leadership Academy

The Special Education Leadership Academy is designed to increase the knowledge and skills that are vital for special education leaders. This year's Academy, **Connecting Through Challenge, Change, and Opportunity** will provide leaders time to engage in conversations, learn from practitioners, and share effective practices to improve results for students with disabilities and meet the targets of the PA State Performance Plan. Session presenters from local education agencies will share their experiences of designing and implementing practices, procedures, and policies to improve learning opportunities and, ultimately the independence of students with disabilities.

## Credits Offered

Act 48 continuing education credits are offered for all keynote and breakout sessions. **Act 48 will be offered per day.** Individuals attending this conference, both in-person and virtually must complete the conference evaluation survey with proper codes within one week of the conference to be eligible to receive Act 48 continuing education credit.

**July 19, 2022** - 4 hours

**July 20, 2022** - 6 hours

**July 21, 2022** - 3 hours

## In-Person Participation:

To receive continuing education credit, individuals attending this conference must arrive on time and stay the duration of the day(s)/session(s) for which they are requesting credit(s). Additionally, individuals must complete the conference evaluation survey with proper codes within one week of the conference to be eligible to receive Act 48 continuing education credit.

## Virtual Participation:

To receive continuing education credit, participants must login to ZOOM on a computer individually. No credit will be awarded for those who attend by phone (audio alone). Additionally, individuals must complete the conference evaluation survey with proper codes within one week of the conference to be eligible to receive Act 48 continuing education credit.

## Agenda

### Tuesday, July 19, 2022

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Opening Keynote
2:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Break
2:45 PM - 3:45 PM	Breakout 1
3:45 PM - 4:00 PM	Break
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Breakout 2
5:45 PM - 7:00 PM	Reception

### Wednesday, July 20, 2022

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	Breakout 3
9:30 AM - 9:45 AM	Break
9:45 AM - 10:45 AM	Breakout 4
10:45 AM - 11:00 AM	Break
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Breakout 5
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Breakout 6
2:00 PM - 2:15 PM	Break
2:15 PM - 3:15 PM	Breakout 7
3:15 PM - 3:30 PM	Break
3:30 PM - 4:45 PM	Breakout 8

### Thursday, July 21, 2022

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	Breakout 9
9:30 AM - 9:45 AM	Break
9:45 AM - 10:45 AM	Breakout 10
10:45 AM - 11:00 AM	Break
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Closing Keynote

**Tuesday, July 19, 2022**  
**(1:00 PM – 5:30 PM)**  
**Opportunities for Best Practice**

**Opening Keynote (1:00 PM – 2:30 PM)**

**KN1 Change, Challenge and Opportunity: One Administrator's Journey of Intentional Habits through Difficult Times**

Over the past thirty months, special education directors have been challenged in ways they could have never imagined. Rising up to embrace new opportunities while accepting challenges and changes in our professional and personal lives has potentially given us a "once in a career" opportunity to seize the moment. During this session, Mike Lewis, will share how he has been able to keep positive, focused and driven to connect through challenge, change and opportunity. If Mike can, then you can too!

*Mike Lewis, Quaker Valley School District*

**Break (2:30 PM – 2:45 PM)**

**Breakout Session 1 (2:45 PM – 3:45 PM)**

**A-01 Fiscal Topics**

This session, presented by Dr. Del Hart, Chief for the Division of Analysis and Financial Reporting, will focus on the following topics: Federal Funds, Significant Disproportionality and IDEA funds, ACT 16, Maintenance of Effort and state/local funds, 4010 and 4011 students, and IDEA flow-through funding.

*Del Hart, Bureau of Special Education*

**A-02 Confronting the Special Education Teacher Shortage through Successful Partnerships**

In this session Dr. Marcy Stein will discuss how to engage in partnerships to address the pervasive teacher shortage in special education. She will provide an overview of a successful partnership among higher education, state education agencies, and local education agencies and highlight critical components that contributed to that partnership's success. Finally, she will provide recommendations for creating and maintaining partnerships in order to successfully attract, prepare and retain special education teachers.

*Marcy Stein, Professor Emeritus, University of Washington, Tacoma*

**Break (3:45 PM – 4:00 PM)**

**Breakout Session 2 (4:00 PM – 5:30 PM)**

**B-01 How to Build Family and School Partnerships: Two Stories – IU Team Overcame Barriers and Opened Doors for Collaboration with Families**

Two stories, told from an intermediate unit (IU) executive director and parents who lead the Colonial IU 20 Parent Support T.E.A.M., will illustrate the importance of LEAP (Listen, Empathize, Agree, and Partner) to guide the work of school personnel and families. Learn how their school-family partnerships increased a sense of shared power, belonging, access, and fun. These partnerships have created opportunities for the school entity to enhance programs and services for children and families. The doors are open, and collaboration is authentic.

*Caterina Campbell, Parent*

*Nikki Huggan, Parent*

*Christopher Wolfel, Colonial Intermediate Unit 20*

**B-02 Hot Topic Rotations**

During this session, participants will engage in conversations about "hot topics" in special education administration. Learn from others how they are programming for autism, emotional behavioral disorders, equity, least restrictive environment, and social emotional learning in their districts. Regulatory details and resources will be shared at each hot topic "station" while groups discuss questions posed by facilitators.

*PaTTAN Consultants*

**Reception (5:45 PM – 7:00 PM)**

Plan to relax with fellow colleagues, engage in various activities available on site and/or network around the concepts shared at the Hot Topics session. Connect with special education leaders from across the commonwealth and enjoy the opportunity to mingle. A cash bar and refreshments will be available.

**Wednesday, July 20, 2022  
(8:30 AM – 4:45 PM)  
Leading Through Change**

**Breakout Session 3 (8:30 AM – 9:30 AM)**

**C-01 Creating Opportunities for Agreement Through ODR Services**

While due process hearings are an important procedural right, the Office for Dispute Resolution (ODR) also offers alternatives that can help schools and families reach agreement outside of a hearing. This session will provide an overview of ODR trends and statistics, review ODR services to support schools and families, and highlight current ODR initiatives.

*Samantha Pudloski, Office for Dispute Resolution*

**Break (9:30 AM – 9:45 AM)**

**Breakout Session 4 (9:45 AM – 10:45 AM)**

**D-01 Implementing an MTSS Approach to Related Services, Including Behavioral and Mental Health**

While most educators are familiar with using an MTSS approach for academic needs, the same problem-solving methodology can be applied to related services. This session will provide administrators with a practical framework for designing and implementing an MTSS approach in their district for related therapy services, behavioral health, and mental health concerns. Providing supports to more students sooner, not only reduces referrals and special education identification, but enables districts to help more children at a lower cost overall.

*Pam Hackett, Pediatric Therapeutic Services, Inc.*

**D-02 Preparing for Upcoming Challenges and Changes in Gifted Education with Promising Opportunities for Underrepresented Diverse Populations**

Equity in education is a priority in Pennsylvania. Discussions will include the latest trends in gifted education; the essential training for addressing equity in screening and evaluation practices to ensure improved identification practices that proportionally include culturally, linguistically, dually exceptional, and economic diverse populations; and we will discuss recommendations of data districts should consider collecting and analyzing to improve equity in identification.

*Amy Davis, Allegheny Intermediate Unit 3  
Shirley A Moyer, Bureau of Special Education  
Patrice Semicek, Montgomery County Intermediate Unit 23*

**D-03 Programming for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities: What Do Administrators Need to Know?**

High expectations are important for every student, including students with significant cognitive disabilities. However, there are significant environmental barriers to this group of students accessing the general education curriculum in a way that supports their individual strengths and needs. During this session, administrators will be provided with questions they should consider when supporting teachers of this group of students. Resources to support the development of inclusive environments, rigorous instruction, and academic and social engagement of students with significant cognitive disabilities will also be shared.

*Kristin Starosta, PaTTAN East*

**Break (10:45 AM – 11:00 AM)**

**Breakout Session 5 (11:00 AM – 12:00 PM)**

**E-01 Interpreting the Challenge, Embracing Change, Finding Opportunity**

Special education leaders benefit from perspective. A challenge; the necessary change; and beginning to envision the future - all with the help of intentional thinking. Perspective is a powerful skill within intentional thinking that can be leveraged to improve leadership characteristics, form supportive relationships, and influence partnerships across teams. This session will explore and examine the impact of increasing your capacity to engage in perspective-taking and applying seven principles promoted by John Martin in his book, *Choose Your Perspective*. This session is designed for special education leaders new to a supervisory role with 0-3 years of experience.

*Matt Thomas, Westmoreland Intermediate Unit 7  
Amy Woomeer, Appalachia Intermediate Unit 8*

**E-02 Sustaining Effort, Enhancing Relationships, Navigating the Advocacy**

Opportunities will be provided for veteran special education leaders to reflect on impactful strategies that keep them energized during turbulent times. Practical suggestions will be offered for maintaining and growing essential relationships, even when circumstances challenge us to let our best selves shine. Time will be spent underscoring the importance of engaging our local and federal legislators to impact change. This will be coupled with recommendations and resources for higher levels of advocacy. This session is designed for seasoned special education leaders with 4+ years of experience.

*Lenny Greaney, Bucks County Intermediate Unit 22  
Michele Hammersla-Quick, Central Intermediate Unit 10  
Sherry Zubeck, Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13*

**Lunch (12:00 PM – 1:00 PM)**

**Breakout Session 6 (1:00 PM – 2:00 PM)**

**F-01 Making Connections Across the State Performance Plan Indicators: Why These Connections Matter to School Leaders**

This interactive session will challenge special education leaders to articulate and connect services and activities to the 17 Indicators of compliance and results that support successful implementation of the IDEA. Leaders will be encouraged to identify their program's strengths and needs as they relate to meeting the requirements of IDEA, and most importantly, individual student outcomes. Additionally, the presenters will facilitate a more meaningful and substantial understanding of the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report and its relationship to Local Education Agency's special education programs.

*John Cica, The Sigma Management Group  
Barb Mozina, Bureau of Special Education*

**Break (2:00 PM – 2:15 PM)**

**Breakout Session 7 (2:15 PM – 3:15 PM)**

**G-01 Data Doesn't Lie...Do We? Using Data to Detect Patterns of Disproportionality in Special Education**

In order to engage in equitable practices, it is imperative that data is used to drive decisions and guide prevention efforts, including the use of Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services. During this session, presenters will discuss how to address processes for determining who is in need of support, the efficacy of core programs and interventions, staff utilization patterns, discipline, and eligibility for special education services. Participants will be walked through an example of how to extract data from a student information management system and analyze it for patterns of disproportionality in both academics and discipline to a proactively intervene.

*Jason Pedersen, Derry Township School District  
Angie Persing, Derry Township School District  
Kirsten Scheurich, Derry Township School District*

**G-02 Grant Journeys: Highlights and Obstacles**

This session will feature two LEAs that participated in PaTTAN grant opportunities. The LEAs will share their experiences and key learnings from their efforts to implement a Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) model and the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). Participants will gain an understanding of the Practical Assessment Exploration System (PAES) lab through the lens of a Work Discovery program. They will also learn of an LEA's UDL journey from inception to creation of a multi-year implementation plan. Program highlights and obstacles will be shared to visualize the journeys.

*Daniel Clara, Southmoreland School District  
Tracey Kuchar, Southmoreland School District  
Jason Stragand, Westmoreland Intermediate Unit 7*

**G-03 From Information to Implementation: Pennsylvania's Plan to Reduce the Shortage of Special Educators across the State**

This session will provide a brief overview of Pennsylvania's current educator shortage while focusing on both short- and long-term efforts to Attract – Prepare – Retain (APR) special education personnel. Highlights will include upcoming opportunities and resources including the APR Repository.

*Christine Moon, PaTTAN West*

**Break (3:15 PM – 3:30 PM)**

**Breakout Session 8 (3:30 PM – 4:45 PM)**

**H-01 Morning Mayhem: Difficult Legal Issues Await You – Now, What to Do?**

This interactive presentation with a special education attorney and special education administrator will focus on common scenarios encountered in the field. Once participants submit their input via a polling platform, the attorney will provide the legal parameters of the possible responses while the special education administrator adds to the realities of each scenario. Practical solutions and best practices will be discussed to give participants the tools needed to face tricky situations with renewed confidence. Bring a device to be an active and engaged learner!

*Shawn Lochinger, Sweet, Stevens, Katz, and Williams, Hershey Office  
Denise Sedlacek, Plum Borough School District*

**Thursday, July 21, 2022  
(8:30 AM – 12:00 PM)**

**Turning Challenges and Ideas into Action**

**Breakout Session 9 (8:30 AM – 9:30 AM)**

**I-01 In the Know: New and Updated Resources in Pennsylvania**

This session will provide leaders with information on updated special education forms and resources. The updated forms include: Prior Written Notice for a Reevaluation and Request for Consent, Communication Plan, and their annotated counterparts. The updated resources include the Common Questions and Answers for Leaders of Special Education (formerly titled the Special Education Question and Answer Compendium). A new resource replacing the Supplementary Aids and Services Toolkit will also be shared.

*Jeanette Alexander, Bureau of Special Education  
Cecil Crouch, PaTTAN West  
Tim Krushinski, Bureau of Special Education  
Lisa Russo, PaTTAN East*

## Break (9:30 AM – 9:45 AM)

## Breakout Session 10 (9:45 AM – 10:45 AM)

### J-01 **Attracting the Educators of Tomorrow Through the Lessons of Today: Pathways Toward the Special Educator Pipeline**

Pennsylvania continues to address the efforts of Attract – Prepare – Retain at both state and local levels. Hear from LEAs across the commonwealth as they share strategies used to increase the local educator pipeline.

*Christine Moon, PaTTAN West  
Local Education Agencies Across PA*

### J-02 **Impact, Opportunity & Outcomes: National, State, & Local Perspectives**

Everyday practices, policies, and procedures are impacted from a variety of perspectives. This session will feature resources from the national, state, and local levels that will strengthen the daily practices of special education administrators to build upon their opportunities to address professional development and/or technical assistance needs. Furthermore, as special education administrators, we will examine our role as a change agent in developing proactive skills and actions to meet the needs of students with disabilities, families, and communities.

*Jennifer Anderson, Appalachia Intermediate Unit 8  
Nichole Kopco, PaTTAN Central  
Gina Scala, East Stroudsburg University*

## Break (10:45 AM – 11:00 AM)

## Closing Keynote (11:00 AM – 12:00 PM)

### KN2 **A New Squeeze on Special Education**

Connecting through challenge, change, and opportunity, participants will hold an active role in the journey of two special education professionals who have used challenges thrown their way to not only continue on, but to rise above! Focusing on the importance of using evidence, instructional data, research, and professional knowledge to inform practice; Dr. Mollie Anzinger and Mrs. Sarah Schreiber will share their experiences of leading with positivity. Not immune to the trickling effects of not only the pandemic, but the stressors placed on the world of education through the evolving patterns of legal involvement, these special education administrators will explain how they have overcome barriers and squeezed opportunities out of the challenges along the way. After this session, get ready to use Challenge, Change, and Opportunity to take action and squeeze the day!

*Mollie Anzinger, St. Marys Area School District  
Sarah Schreiber, St. Marys Area School District*

## General Information

### **In-Person Registration Fee:**

The registration fee is \$150.00. **Payment must be made with check or purchase order.** No credit cards will be accepted. Please submit your registration fee by June 30, 2022.

### **Virtual Registration Fee:**

The virtual registration fee is \$75.00. **Payment must be made with check or purchase order.** No credit cards will be accepted. **Payment must be received prior to June 30, 2022 to ensure access to the virtual platform. Online access to the conference will not be available to participants who have not submitted payment.**

### **Registration Payment:**

**Make checks/purchase orders payable to INTERMEDIATE UNIT 1** and send them to the attention of the Business Office, PaTTAN West, 3190 William Pitt Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15238. Email purchase orders to [billing@pattanpgh.net](mailto:billing@pattanpgh.net). Checks/purchase orders must be submitted on or before June 30, 2022 and **must include registrants(s) full name(s)**.

### **Cancellations:**

If you are unable to attend the conference you must cancel your registration by June 30, 2022, by contacting Karen Weaver via email at [kweaver@pattanpgh.net](mailto:kweaver@pattanpgh.net), or your registration fee will not be refunded.

### **Conference Registration:**

All participants should register for this PaTTAN-sponsored event by visiting our website at: <http://www.pattan.net>. Click training calendar and locate the event for the day(s) in July for which you will attend.

### **For questions regarding registration, contact:**

PaTTAN West: Karen Weaver, [kweaver@pattanpgh.net](mailto:kweaver@pattanpgh.net)

### **For questions regarding content, contact:**

PaTTAN East: Tracy Ficca, [tficca@pattan.net](mailto:tficca@pattan.net)

PaTTAN Central: Nichole Kopco, [nkopco@pattan.net](mailto:nkopco@pattan.net)