



A Summit for Special Education Leaders: Continuity of Education, Re-Entry and Ongoing Implementation

Wednesday, July 29, 2020
Thursday, July 30, 2020

PaTTAN, along with The Bureau of Special Education, PA Association of Intermediate Units and the PA Council of Administrators of Special Education (PA-CASE) is pleased to offer a virtual summit for special education administrators focused on the implications of the COVID-19 school closures. Join special education leaders from across the Commonwealth to discuss practices, resources, and supports for navigating these unprecedented times and the impact on educating students with disabilities.

Agenda

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

12:30 p.m. - 12:50 p.m.	Keynote Address
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Breakout 1
2:10 p.m. - 3:10 p.m.	Breakout 2
3:20 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	COVID Compensatory Services

Thursday, July 30, 2020

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Breakout 4
10:10 a.m. - 11:10 AM	Breakout 5
11:20 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.	Breakout 6
12:25 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.	Closing Keynote

12:30 PM - 12:50 PM - Opening Keynote

The Council for Administrators of Special Education (CASE) Executive Director Phyllis Wolfram will kick-off the summit by providing federal updates, advocacy efforts, resources and so much more. Learn more about the professional organization that provides leadership and support to members by shaping policies and practices that impact the quality of education.

Phyllis Wolfram, Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE)

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM - Breakout 1

01. The Impact of COVID-19 School Closures on Students with Disabilities: What the Attorneys Are Saying

Since the pandemic crisis occurred and PA schools closed in March 2020, special education attorneys across the state have been assisting local education agencies with their responses to educating students with disabilities. A panel of attorneys including Andy Faust, Russell Lucas and Bill Zee will discuss their experiences with issues occurring in the wake of the pandemic including continuity of education, re-entry and ongoing implementation of instruction and services.

Andy Faust, Sweet-Stevens-Katz-Williams
Russell Lucas, Andrews & Price, LLC
William Zee, Barley Snyder, LLP

02. Issues of Importance for Students with Disabilities: Family Perspectives

This session will identify key issues of importance to Pennsylvania's students with disabilities as schools plan for the 2020-21 school year. Several organizations that support families who have children, youth and young adults with disabilities have formed a coalition to ensure that the family perspective is included as schools plan for "re-opening." We have identified priority considerations for school leaders as they prepare.

Jeannine Brinkley, PEAL Center
Luz Hernandez, HUNE
Jill Hrinda-Patten, Mission Empower
Sherri Landis, The ARC of Pennsylvania

2:10 PM - 3:10 PM – Breakout 2

03. Health and Safety Pandemic Planning Specific to Special Education

Intermediate unit and school district special education administrators from across Pennsylvania will share their approaches to mitigating the risk factors specific to the needs of students with disabilities. Pandemic Plan language addressing the physical needs of students with multiple disabilities, the behavioral needs of students with significant social and emotional needs, and the unique challenges related to supporting students with autism and intellectual disabilities will be shared. Time will be set aside for Q & A to provide summit participants the opportunity to engage with the panel.

Lynn Murphy, Lincoln Intermediate Unit
Jennifer Williams, Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit
Sherry Zubeck, Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit

04. Equitable Leadership

This session is designed to complement the ongoing work by leaders to address educational inequities. Leaders will be given the tenets of equitable educational practices as a critical lens to identify components of their school systems which support or inhibit educational equities. The concepts of professional and personal growth and shared ownership related to equity are included in the learning. PA's Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education framework will be highlighted with a focus on family and community engagement. Leaders will participate in reflective and intentional opportunities to evaluate their abilities to embed equity in policies and practice.

Nikole Hollins-Sims, PaTTAN Harrisburg
Amira Hill Yancy, PaTTAN East

3:20 PM - 4:20 PM – Breakout 3

05. COVID Compensatory Services Guidance/Grants

Recently, the PA Bureau of Special Education released COVID Compensatory Services (CCS) Guidance whereby LEAs, in consultation with IEP teams, must make an individualized determination whether, and to what extent, compensatory services may be needed as a result of the extended school closure. This session will provide further explanation of the CCS process and strategies for delivering CCS. Additionally, session participants will be introduced to a grant opportunity available to school districts and charter schools in need of financial supports to offset costs associated with the development and implementation of a systemic plan to address the need to remedy students' skill and/or behavior loss and/or lack of progress that resulted from the LEA's inability to provide a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) during the extended school closure. Participation in this session is mandatory for school district and charter school personnel interested in applying for a CCS grant.

Kim Cole, PaTTAN East
Nichole Kopco, PaTTAN Harrisburg
Roni Russell, PaTTAN Harrisburg

Thursday, July 30, 2020

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM – Breakout 4

06. The Hearing Officer Perspective on Virtual Due Process Hearings

Although Pennsylvania hearing officers have been offering Virtual Hearings (VH) for the past five years, VH became the exclusive mode of due process hearings as of March 16, 2020, when schools closed. A panel of hearing officers, including Jake McElligott and Cathy Skidmore will discuss the past four months of due process hearings, and look ahead to the gradual resumption of in-person hearings.

Jake McElligott, Office for Dispute Resolution
Cathy Skidmore, Office for Dispute Resolution

07. Virtual Family Engagement: What We Have Learned

As administrators know, family engagement is a key factor to increasing graduation rates, lowering behavior referrals, and improving student success. A panel of representatives from Pennsylvania's Parent Information and Training Center (PTI), a Community Parent Resource Center (CPRC), and parent leader of the FAMILIES TO THE MAX: Pennsylvania Statewide Family Network will share insights into their current work engaging families and students during a pandemic. They will discuss successful strategies and tips for you and your staff on improving student achievement through virtual and other methods of family engagement.

Katy Breault, Families to the Max
Jeannine Brinkley, PEAL Center
Jacqui DiDomenico, PaTTAN Parent Consultant
Luz Hernandez, HUNE

10:10 AM - 11:10 AM – Breakout 5

08. Educationally Sound Decision-Making Procedures in Special Education: Child Find Procedures & Evaluation

Participants will be provided with guidelines to establish, reinforce, and communicate the use of Child Find Procedures within their LEAs. Special education evaluations and assessment procedures will also be discussed as a means to provide teams with considerations to meet student needs and avoid possible over identification of students. Content will be reviewed in a manner that is conducive to both a virtual and/or face-to-face environment.

Nichole Kopco, PaTTAN Harrisburg
Chanda Telleen, PaTTAN Harrisburg

09. BERT – Bucks IU Emergency Recovery Team - Roadmap to Recovery

Schools will face many challenges as they consider how to safely re-open and help students recover academically. Critical to this process is addressing the social and emotional needs as students and staff re-integrate back into classrooms, continue to develop connections to the school community and adjust to whatever learning environment. It is vital that schools offer opportunities for processing feelings and experiences, safe expression, and development of coping skills so that all can continue the work of teaching and learning. This workshop will provide an outline of a Roadmap to Recovery with suggestions and resources for several phases of reopening.

Jennifer Hertwig, Ph.D., Bucks County Intermediate Unit

11:20 AM - 12:20 PM – Breakout 6

10. Not Your Average Virtual Classroom: Advancing Learning for Students with Complex Needs

This session will showcase specific examples of how the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit offered daily, synchronous, virtual learning to students with complex needs during the COVID-19 closures. Approaches to online learning for students in various specialized programs will be part of the presentation including: the consistent use of Google Classroom to communicate with parents and students, modification of specialized apps in a virtual environment, and instructional delivery methods using several online programs to increase student engagement.

Brittany Lourea-Waddell, Montgomery County Intermediate Unit

11. Best Practices to Accommodate Specially Designed Instruction in Virtual Learning Environments

With the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic, LEAs were faced with moving all instruction to a virtual format while still upholding IDEA and ensuring the unique needs of students with disabilities were met. This panel discussion will feature several LEA perspectives on how specially designed instruction was planned for and delivered through online instruction. The panel will include both administrator and teacher perspectives while offering attendees an opportunity for discussion.

*Halifax Area School District ~ Halifax, PA
Propel Charter School ~ Pittsburgh, PA
Russel Byers Charter School ~ Philadelphia, PA*

12:25 PM - 12:45 PM – Closing Keynote

Join the Bureau of Special Education (BSE) Director, Carole Clancy and Assistant Director, Amy Pastorak, as they wrap up the summit by addressing questions regarding COVID Compensatory Services. Carole and Amy will share a light-hearted reflection on leadership qualities realized during their first year on the job. They will conclude the session with an inspirational message for leaders as we prepare to reopen schools and welcome students with disabilities to the 2020-2021 school year.

*Carole Clancy, Bureau of Special Education
Amy Pastorak, Bureau of Special Education*

On-line Registration

All participants should register for this PaTTAN-sponsored event by visiting our website at: <http://www.pattan.net>.

A Summit for Special Education Leaders is a web-based conference which requires each participant to log in separately to each session using the links that will be provided closer to the scheduled event.

All participants who wish to earn Act 48 clock hours must login to ZOOM on a computer individually in order to earn credits. Participants must stay for the duration of the conference and complete the conference evaluation survey with proper codes within one week of the conference to be eligible to receive ACT 48 clock hours.

Participants are encouraged to test their computers/devices prior to the date of the conference using <https://zoom.us/test>, and to seek local assistance if you encounter difficulty.

For questions about registration, contact:

Kristen Olszyk, PaTTAN Pittsburgh, 412-826-6848,
kolszyk@pattanpgh.net

For questions regarding content, contact:

Paula Schmitt, PaTTAN Pittsburgh, 412-826-6858,
pschmitt@pattanpgh.net