

PaTTAN Leadership Initiative

Achieving Balance:



2024 Pennsylvania Special Education

# Leadership Academy

Transforming Lives Through Leadership

July 9 - 11, 2024

**The 2024 Special Education Leadership Academy is offered in a hybrid format – in-person at Wyndham Gettysburg, 95 Presidential Circle, Gettysburg, PA 17325 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, **Transforming Lives Through Leadership** 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 will share their experiences of designing and implementing practices, procedures, and policies to improve results.

## Credits Offered

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

**July 9, 2024** - 3 hours

**July 10, 2024** - 6 hours

**July 11, 2024** – 2.5 hours

## In-Person Participation:

To receive continuing education credit, individuals attending this Academy 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 evaluation survey with proper codes within one week of the Academy 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 Academy evaluation survey with proper codes within one week of the Academy to be eligible to receive Act 48 continuing education credit.

## Agenda

### Tuesday, July 9, 2024

1:00 PM - 1:30 PM	Opening Remarks
1:30 PM – 1:45 PM	Break
1:45 PM - 3:00 PM	Breakout 1
3:00 PM – 3:15 PM	Break
3:15 PM - 4:30 PM	Breakout 2
4:45 PM - 6:00 PM	Reception

### Wednesday, July 10, 2024

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Continental Breakfast
8:30 AM - 9:45 AM	Breakout 3
9:45 AM - 10:00 AM	Break
10:00 AM - 11:15 AM	Breakout 4
11:15 AM - 11:30 AM	Break
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Trending Topics from Across the Commonwealth
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM	Lunch
1:30 PM - 2:00 PM	Vendor Exhibition
2:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Breakout 5
3:15 PM - 3:30 PM	Break
3:30 PM - 4:45 PM	Breakout 6

### Thursday, July 11, 2024

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Continental Breakfast
8:30 AM - 9:45 AM	Breakout 7
9:45 AM - 10:00 AM	Break
10:00 AM - 11:15 AM	Breakout 8
11:15 AM - 11:30 AM	Break
11:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Closing Remarks

**Tuesday, July 9, 2024**  
**(1:00 PM – 4:30 PM)**  
**Transforming Lives**

**(1:00 PM – 1:30 PM)**

**Opening Remarks by the Bureau of Special Education**

To open the 2024 PA Special Education Leadership Academy, the Bureau of Special Education will highlight Pennsylvania's accomplishments and celebrate special education administrators' work to advance inclusive education, foster connections with families and communities, and transform lives through leadership.

*Representatives from the Bureau of Special Education*

**Break (1:30 PM – 1:45 PM)**

**Breakout Session 1 (1:45 PM – 3:00 PM)**

**A-01 Charting the Course for Student-Led IEPs (SLIEPs):  
A How-To Guide for Administrators**

There are many benefits to the utilization of SLIEPs for students, families, and school community, but how do we initiate them? This session will answer frequently asked questions regarding SLIEPs, provide tools to lead the way for successful implementation, and allow for interactive discussions regarding effective strategies.

*Jennifer Geibel, PaTTAN West*

*Tammy Thompson-Cooke, PaTTAN East*

**A-02 Illuminating the Path to Trauma-Informed Special Education**

Trauma-informed special education acknowledges the impact of adverse experiences on students' learning and behavior. It emphasizes creating safe, supportive environments, understanding trauma's effects on cognitive and emotional development. Join Attorney Bill Zee and Dr. Laura Sharp as they explore strategies to endure the delivery of FAPE while fostering resilience, promoting academic success, and cultivating holistic well-being among students with diverse needs.

*Laura Sharp, Lincoln Intermediate Unit 12*

*William Zee, Appel, Yost & Zee LLP*

**A-03 Success for Students with ADHD**

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) has seen a tremendous growth rate over the last eight years. It is a more common diagnosis than any other disability with boys being 12.9% more likely to be diagnosed than girls. Every teacher will encounter one or more students with ADHD at some point. Students with ADHD may present challenges, both behaviorally and academically, for teachers and their peer groups. This session will explore the instructional needs of students with an ADHD diagnosis, the impact of ADHD on students and the classroom, and how to create an educational environment that meets both the academic and social needs of students with an ADHD diagnosis.

*Kimberley Bonanni, Maritime Academy Charter School*

**Break (3:00 PM – 3:15 PM)**

**Breakout Session 2 (3:15 PM – 4:30 PM)**

**B-01 Charting a Course: CTC and Teacher Preparation**

This presentation details an innovative model to engage aspiring educators while they are in high school. Under the newly approved CIP Code: 13.0101, learn how the Central Westmoreland CTC is collaborating with its sending districts and university partners to provide authentic experiences and college credits for high school students.

*Jason Lucia, Central Westmoreland Career & Technology Center*

*Alexander Novickoff, Central Westmoreland Career & Technology Center*

**B-02 Family Engagement and Educational Administrators:  
Leading the Way for Home-School Partnerships**

School leaders set the tone for family engagement within their LEAs by taking action to create and maintain successful home-school partnerships. This interactive session will explore the relationship between family engagement and successful academic outcomes, as well as provide opportunities for leaders to discuss real-world strategies to increase collaboration.

*Jennifer Geibel, PaTTAN West*

*Kim Jenkins, PaTTAN East*

*Greater Latrobe School District*

*McGuffey School District*

**B-03 Developing and Implementing MTSS/Trauma Informed Approaches to Meet the Academic, Behavioral, and Professional Needs of Students and Staff**

From policy to practice we will explore how to design and implement trauma informed approaches that develop student social and emotional skills within a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework.

*Felicia Gonzalez, Pottsgrove School District*

*Ann Marie Lucas, Pottsgrove School District*

*Becky Pappano, Pottsgrove School District*

**Reception**

**(4:45 PM – 6:00 PM)**



Plan to relax with fellow colleagues during this reception sponsored by PA CASE. Connect with special education leaders from across the commonwealth and enjoy the opportunity to network and mingle. A cash bar and refreshments will be available.

**Wednesday, July 10, 2024**

**(8:30 AM – 4:45 PM)**

## **Transforming Lives Through Action**

### **Breakout Session 3 (8:30 AM – 9:45 AM)**

#### **C-01 What Leaders Should Know About Connecting Preschool Early Intervention Service Delivery with a Successful Transition to Kindergarten**

Preschool Early Intervention is a critical element in kindergarten readiness for children with disabilities. This session will describe Early Intervention service delivery priorities that strengthen the collaboration between preschool Early Intervention and Early Childhood leaders so that all children transition to kindergarten with a shared foundation for their further learning.

*Jodie Holmberg, Early Intervention Technical Assistance (EITA)*  
*Susan Zeiders, Early Intervention Technical Assistance (EITA)*

#### **C-02 Navigating the Frontier of AI in Special Education: Insights for School Leaders**

This illuminating presentation offers a timely overview of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the realm of special education. In this dynamic session, participants will delve into the transformative potential of AI technologies, exploring their applications, benefits, and challenges for supporting diverse learners.

*Jeremy Gaborin, PaTTAN Central*  
*Lauren Walker, PaTTAN Central*

#### **C-03 Intensive Interagency Processes: Responsibilities, Reporting and Resources**

Interagency collaboration practices facilitate the involvement of community businesses, organizations, and agencies in transition education. During this session, participants will learn about interagency agreements that articulate roles, responsibilities, communications, and other strategies to foster collaboration and enhance curriculum and program development. LEA responsibilities, reporting and resources will also be discussed.

*Roni Russell, PaTTAN Central*

### **Break (9:45 AM – 10:00 AM)**

### **Breakout Session 4 (10:00 AM – 11:15 AM)**

#### **D-01 Office of Dispute Resolution (ODR) Overview**

This session aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the continuum of dispute resolution options available and the roles played by ConsultLine, facilitators, mediators, and hearing officers throughout the dispute resolution processes. Attendees will leave equipped with knowledge and tools necessary to support their understanding of ODR and the role special education leaders have in working toward resolution and supporting positive outcomes for students with disabilities.

*Anna Cook, Office for Dispute Resolution*

#### **D-02 Utilizing AI in Special Education: Hands-on Experience for School Leaders**

Before attending this session, you should have some level of comfort or experience using Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools or attend the earlier “Navigating the Frontier” session. This hands-on session is designed to provide special education leaders with the experience needed to make informed decisions regarding the use of AI.

*Jeremy Gaborin, PaTTAN Central*  
*Lauren Walker, PaTTAN Central*

#### **D-03 Collaborative Decision Making with Authentic Family Engagement Facilitates Conflict Resolution**

Navigating conflict successfully during the individual educational plan team process is an outcome all interested parties desire. Explore how constructive collaborative decision-making coupled with authentic family engagement facilitates resolution of conflict at the lowest level possible. Come explore shared leadership and collaborative problem solving at the individual child and systems level.

*Carole Clancy, Bureau of Special Education*  
*Jacqui DiDomenico, PaTTAN East*  
*Jill Houseal, Families to the MAX*  
*Nikki Huggan, Families to the MAX*

### **Break (11:15 AM – 11:30 AM)**

### **(11:30 AM – 12:30 PM)**

#### **Trending Topics from Across the Commonwealth**

Join the Bureau of Special Education’s Division Chiefs as they address topics important to special education administrators. Equip yourself with knowledge and tools needed to navigate the complexities of special education with confidence.

*Representatives from the Bureau of Special Education*

### **Lunch provided (12:30 PM – 1:30 PM)**

#### **Vendor Exhibition (1:30 PM – 2:00 PM)**

Visit the vendors’ exhibits to learn about products and organizations that offer resources and services in support of students with disabilities.

### **Breakout Session 5 (2:00 PM – 3:15 PM)**

#### **F-01 How Pennsylvania Is Increasing Graduation Rates for Students with Disabilities and You Can Too!**

Join this interactive session to learn how Pennsylvania is using five phases of implementation to increase graduation rates for students with disabilities. Participants will complete a planning document that guides them through teaming, using an Early Warning System (EWS), aligning evidence-based strategies and interventions, action planning, and monitoring student progress.

*Tracy Ficca, PaTTAN East*  
*Laura Moran, PaTTAN Central*  
*LEA Representatives*

**F-02 Coaching Staff in Classroom Management Skills to Prevent Problem Behaviors**

Training provides learners with knowledge, skills, strategies, and resources. However, research indicates giving information does not guarantee implementation of what was learned. Coaching helps bridge the gap between knowing and doing. Coaching involves a cycle of repeated observations and feedback with goal setting, modeling, prompting, and reinforcement. During this session, coaching models and resources for developing a coaching program in your setting will be shared.

*Lisa Thomas, Center for Effective Schools*

**F-03 Beyond Boundaries: Building Inclusive Schools with Include Me**

This session will highlight aspects of the “Include Me” program and implementation of inclusive practices by participating school districts, offering attendees a range of insights and perspectives aligned to evidence-based practices. Presenters will explore how schools can go beyond boundaries to create environments where everyone feels valued, respected, and included.

*Nicole Emery, The Arc of Pennsylvania  
Jennifer Macsisak, The Arc of Pennsylvania*

**Break (3:15 PM – 3:30 PM)**

**Breakout Session 6 (3:30 PM – 4:45 PM)**

**G-01 Empowering Leadership through Legal Understanding: Mastering Special Education’s Legal Labyrinth**

Embark on a transformative journey unraveling the intricate legal landscape surrounding the education of students with disabilities, a perennial puzzle for special education professionals. This session will facilitate participants’ application of legislation and court decisions to special education dilemmas, ensuring clarity, preventing misconceptions, and providing valuable insights for practical implementation.

*Constance Lyttle, Drexel University  
Rick Sabousky, Grove City College*

**G-02 Making the Right Instructional and Assessment Decisions for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities: Policy and Practice for School Leaders**

Special education leaders will explore instructional practices and assessment policies impacting students with significant cognitive disabilities and their teachers. Explore and discuss how the Dynamic Learning Maps system provides accessible content, instructional resources, and professional development. Dive into state assessment determinations and test accommodation considerations.

*Kelley DesLauriers, PaTTAN West  
Lisa Hampe, PA Bureau of Special Education  
Lisa Hauswirth, PA Bureau of Special Education*

**G-03 Growing Futures: Pioneering Equitable STEM Education**

South Fayette Township School District is advancing equitable access to STEM education for neurodiverse populations through cutting-edge agricultural technology and entrepreneurship. Learn how they are leveraging agricultural technology and community partnerships to support STEM learning and career pathways for students with disabilities with a focus on transition programming.

*Rachel Andler, South Fayette Township School District  
Matt Callison, South Fayette Township School District  
Kara Pappas, South Fayette Township School District*

**Thursday, July 11, 2024  
(8:30 AM – 12:00 PM)  
Turning Challenges and Ideas into Action**

**Breakout Session 7 (8:30 AM – 9:45 AM)**

**H-01 The Impact of Special Education Data: Transforming Priorities**

This interactive session will challenge special education leaders to consider State Performance Plan data to support successful implementation of 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. This session will reveal federally required state performance data with the goal of transforming special education leadership priorities.

*John Cica, The Sigma Management Group,*

**H-02 Unlocking Potential: Teaching Twice - Exceptional Learners in Today’s Classroom**

Twice - exceptional (2e) learners have often been misunderstood, disciplined, unchallenged, and left behind. In this session, we will explore the marriage between gifted and special education, dive into masking factors, and discuss a variety of strategies for providing instruction for twice-exceptional students in classrooms.

*Amy McShane, Allegheny Intermediate Unit 3  
Shirley Moyer, Pennsylvania Department of Education  
Patrice Semicek, Montgomery County Intermediate Unit 23*

**H-03 Supporting Students with Disabilities in a Virtual Learning Program**

This session will offer a window into a variety of supports utilized by a successful virtual learning program to support the success of all learners online. Learn ways to identify and incorporate support for special populations learners online in a full-time or hybrid format.

*Lori Keener, Allegheny Intermediate Unit 3*

**Break (9:45 AM – 10:00 AM)**

## Breakout Session 8 (10:00 AM – 11:15 AM)

### I-01 Practical Equity Strategies for Schools

Want to make an impact in your school through equitable practices? This session is for you! Come prepared to learn about tried-and-true practices that are actionable and ready to implement. These strategies will help schools on the path to building inclusive environments for all students.

*Michelle Lutz, School District of Springfield Township*

### I-02 Removing Roadblocks: A Roadmap for Interagency Collaboration in Secondary Transition

During this session, participants will learn strategies for seamless coordination among agencies serving youth with disabilities. This session explores best practices, challenges, and innovative solutions to foster collaboration between education and vocational rehabilitation, as well as other agency partners, ensuring a smooth journey towards post-school outcomes.

*Hillary Hubbell, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)  
Hillary Mangis, PaTTAN West  
Mara Wolfe, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)*

### I-03 Building Bridges: Strengthening Student Support Networks through Collaborative Partnerships with Speech Language Pathologists and District Leadership

This presentation delves into the importance of forging strong partnerships with Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs) to create a cohesive support network for students. Attendees will gain practical strategies for fostering open communication, leveraging each other's expertise, and implementing evidence-based interventions that address the diverse needs of students, ultimately fostering a culture of collaboration and success.

*Matthew Przywara, School District of Lancaster  
Christina Rojas, School District of Lancaster*

## Closing Remarks (11:30 AM – 12:00 PM)

In bringing the 2024 PA Special Education Leadership Academy to a close, The Bureau of Special Education will reflect on the wealth of knowledge shared and connections made. Let's carry forward the lessons learned to continue advancing special education programming.

*Representatives from the Bureau of Special Education*

## General Information

### In-Person Registration Fee:

The registration fee is \$180.00. Payment may be made by credit card, check, or money/purchase order.

**Credit card payment** – The PaTTAN registration system is equipped to process payments made by credit card. Credit card payments are entered online as part of the registration process.

**Check or money/purchase order payments - Make check or money/purchase orders payable to INTERMEDIATE UNIT 1** and send to the attention of the Business Office, PaTTAN West, 3190 William Pitt Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15238. Email purchase orders to [ConferencePO@pattanpgh.net](mailto:ConferencePO@pattanpgh.net). Checks or money/purchase orders **must include registrants(s) full name(s)**.

**All payments must be submitted on or before June 30, 2024.**

Please note that if your registration fee is not received by June 30, 2024, you will be required to submit payment at the registration desk prior to registering and receiving your Academy materials.

### Virtual Registration Fee:

The virtual registration fee is \$90.00. Payment may be made by credit card, check, or money/purchase order.

**Credit card payment** – The PaTTAN registration system is equipped to process payments made by credit card. Credit card payments are entered online as part of the registration process.

**Check or money/purchase order payments - Make check or money/purchase orders payable to INTERMEDIATE UNIT 1** and send to the attention of the Business Office, PaTTAN West, 3190 William Pitt Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15238. Email purchase orders to [ConferencePO@pattanpgh.net](mailto:ConferencePO@pattanpgh.net). Checks or money/purchase orders **must include registrants(s) full name(s)**.

**Payment must be received prior to June 30, 2024, to ensure access to the virtual platform. Online access to the Academy will not be available to participants who have not submitted payment.**

### Cancellations:

If you are unable to attend the Academy you must cancel your registration by June 30, 2024, by contacting Paula Quinn via email at [pquinn@pattanpgh.net](mailto:pquinn@pattanpgh.net), or your registration fee will not be refunded.

### Academy Registration:

All participants should register for this PaTTAN-sponsored event by visiting our website at: <http://www.pattan.net>. Click training calendar and go to July.

**For questions regarding registration, contact:**

PaTTAN West: Paula Quinn, [pquinn@pattanpgh.net](mailto:pquinn@pattanpgh.net)

**For questions regarding content, contact:**

PaTTAN West: Darla Bryant, [dbryant@pattanpgh.net](mailto:dbryant@pattanpgh.net)

PaTTAN East: Kim Cole, [kcole@pattan.net](mailto:kcole@pattan.net)