

Pennsylvania Fellowship Program for Special Education Leaders

Welcoming Cohort 13 Applicants
2022-2023

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 customized, year-long professional development opportunity for special education administrators interested in developing their knowledge and skills of special education. “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?

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

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What is my commitment as a PFP Special Education Fellow?

- Attend all professional development sessions as outlined on page 4 of this document. Attendance for the duration of all sessions is expected.
- Attend the PA Department of Education Conference March 1-3, 2023. Registration included as part of the Fellowship.
- Attend the Special Education Leadership Academy in Summer of 2023. Registration included as part of the Fellowship.
- 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 \$460. The registration fee covers the cost of meals at the in-person sessions and the registration fees for the 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 39 hours available for this program.

Who is eligible to apply?

The Pennsylvania Fellowship Program for Special Education Leaders is a comprehensive program that provides a continuum of professional development sessions that will result in the development of a systematic view of special education while building the leadership capacity of the participant.

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 comprised of other special education leaders.

To apply for the 2022-2023 Pennsylvania Fellowship Program for Special Education Leaders, complete an application by close of business on Friday, August 19, 2022. To access the application, use the following link: <https://forms.gle/scfdvxxT8L2q6At17>

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/cvDoiYoTeGp7mrfR7>

All applicants will be notified of their status by Thursday, September 8, 2022.

Direct questions regarding the Pennsylvania Fellowship Program for Special Educators to:

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Pennsylvania Fellowship Program for Special Education Leaders

2022-2023 Calendar

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
September 27, 2022	Live at The Penn Stater Hotel & Conference Center	10:30 AM to 5:00 PM
September 28, 2022	Live at The Penn Stater Hotel & Conference Center	8:30 AM to 3:00 PM
November 2, 2022	Virtual	12:30 PM to 3:45 PM
November 3, 2022	Virtual	8:30 AM to 11:45 AM
December 14, 2022	Virtual	8:30 AM to 11:45 AM
January 24, 2023	Virtual	8:30 AM to 11:45 AM
February 28, 2023	Live at The Hershey Lodge and Convention Center (before PDE Annual Conference)	1:00 PM to 4:15 PM
March 1, 2023	Live at The Hershey Lodge and Convention Center (before PDE Annual Conference)	8:00 AM to 11:15 AM
March 1 to 3, 2023 Pennsylvania Department of Education Annual Conference- Making a Difference: Educational Practices That Work	Live Hershey Lodge and Convention Center	TBA (Act 48 by attendance at PDE conference)
May 16, 2023	Virtual	12:30 PM to 3:45 PM
May 17, 2023	Virtual	8:30 AM to 11:45 AM
Summer 2023 Pennsylvania Special Education Leadership Academy	Live (TBD)	(Act 48 by attendance at PA Special Education Leadership Academy)

Note: Should the 2022-2023 Pennsylvania Fellowship Program be affected by unforeseen events, program adjustments may be necessary.