Implementing Evidence-Based Practices to Increase Graduation Rates in Pennsylvania





Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network



PaTTAN's Mission

The mission of the Pennsylvania
Training and Technical Assistance
Network (PaTTAN) is to support the
efforts and initiatives of the Bureau of
Special Education, and to build the
capacity of local educational agencies
to serve students who receive special
education services.

PDE's Commitment to Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)

Our goal for each child is to ensure Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams begin with the general education setting with the use of Supplementary Aids and Services before considering a more restrictive environment.

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Agenda



- I. Introduction of the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)
- II. Overview of the five phases to increase the graduation rate and decrease the dropout rates for students with disabilities

Part I:

Pennsylvania State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)



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What is the SSIP?

SSIP is a comprehensive statewide multi-year plan to increase the graduation rate and decrease the dropout rates for students with disabilities.

The SSIP does the following:

- Incorporates evidence-based practices proven to work for all students including students with disabilities, diverse students, and students low SES.
- Provides a framework for LEAs to follow and implement the strategies.

State Identified Measureable Result

- State Identified Measureable Result (SIMR): Increase the graduation rate of students with disabilities and reduce the number of student with risk factors that impact the likelihood of school completion.
- Developed and determined by multiple stakeholders (e.g., over 200 participants).



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SSIP Learning Sites

- 12 high schools across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and supported by educational consultants in the three PaTTAN offices (Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, and East)
- HUNE (organization in Philadelphia)



Intervention Framework

The Intervention Framework was developed by the National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities. That organization is now identified as the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition (NTACT). Based on their feedback and support, this framework is being used for the SSIP and has been successful in other states, LEAs, and schools.

Phase I	Develop State and Local Leadership Teams
Phase II	Use an Early Warning System to analyze data of students
Phase III	Identify Target Areas for Intervention (based on the needs of students with disabilities off-track
Phase IV	Develop Improvement Plan (or revise current improvement plan)
Phase V	Implement, Monitor, and Evaluate

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Part II:

Five Phases to Increase Graduation Rates and Decrease Dropout Rates for Students with Disabilities



Five Phases to Increase Graduation Rates and Decrease Dropout Rates for Students with Disabilities

Phase I:

Develop State and Local Leadership Teams



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Teaming Structure



Establishing a local leadership team is required at all schools and is often referred to as the SSIP Core Team.

- Team make-up typically includes:
 - Building administration, special education administration, general education, and special education teachers/case managers, and data systems specialist.
- Other team members may include:
 - Central administration, transition coordinator, transition counselor, social worker, school psychologist, school counselor, climate manager, home school liaison (truancy/attendance), social worker, Check and Connect coordinator, department chairs, behavior specialist

Team Roles/Responsibilities

- The core team reviews EWS student level risk data, progress toward goals, logistics/fidelity of implementation of interventions, and recommends instructional adjustments/staff development as needed.
- The team may wish to meet with other committees, team members, individual teachers, and students after reviewing the data and how to best support the students with the appropriate supports.

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Data Team Meetings

- Core teams meet regularly to review EWS data which has been bi-weekly or monthly depending on the site.
- Data person organizes data sets for meetings
- Student response to intervention reviewed using progress monitoring data and scripted process (for some)
- Instructional adjustments recommended and documented
 - Logistics around new/tweaked interventions planned
 - Revisions to IEPs when appropriate
- Follow up regarding a student's progress may be with other staff members or committees (e.g., Check and Connect mentor, math teacher, SAP or behavioral health staff, IEP meeting, etc.).

Other Data Reviewed

Other data may be reviewed in addition to the EWS data.

- Special education case manager/teacher monitors data/grades/assignments of students on weekly/ongoing basis
- Check & Connect mentor reports
- Transition coordinator reports on work study/job shadowing opportunities

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Challenges and Considerations

- Time for teams to meet regularly
- Staff turnover
- Ownership of student needs across all content areas
- Expertise in literacy and math instruction for students
- Utilizing a data meeting note taking form consistently

Five Phases to Increase Graduation Rates and Decrease Dropout Rates for Students with Disabilities

Phase II:

Using an Early Warning System to Analyze Data of Students



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Purposes of an Early Warning System (EWS)

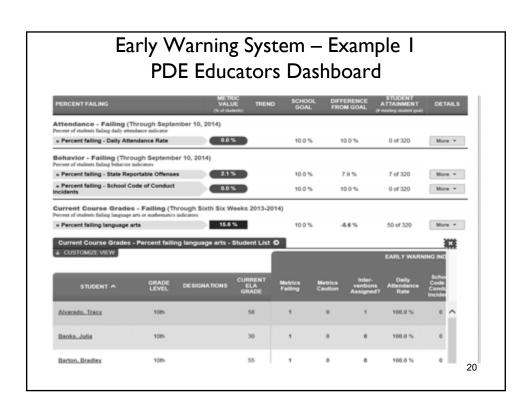
- Help schools organize, examine, analyze, and share data related to school completion
- Support schools in identifying needs and developing a local intervention plan... and later, in implementing and evaluating the plan
- Help schools identify at-risk students and their potential needs for additional supports and tiered interventions

Key Indicators that Predict Student Success

- I. Attendance
- 2. Behavior



3. Course Performance



Early Warning System – Example 2 National Technical Assistance Center for Transition (NTACT) Data Tools

The Tools' (for building-level data)

- Core Data Tool a high level look at school completion
- Graduation & Dropout Tool
- Attendance Tool
- 4. **Academics Tool**
- Discipline Tool

Risk calculator -

Identifies at-risk students and their areas of need

Course Passing Rate Data	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	
Percent of 9th graders passing English/ELA class					
Students with disabilities	69.0%	70.0%	71.0%	70.0%	
All students	81.0%	84.0%	85.0%	87.0%	
Gap:SWD and all students	12.0%	14.0%	14.0%	17.0%	
Percent of 10th graders passing English/ELA class					
Students with disabilities	71.0%	73.0%	71.0%	74.0%	
All students	82.0%	82.0%	84.0%	85.0%	
Gap:SWD and all students	11.0%	9.0%	13.0%	11.0%	
Percent of 11th graders passing English/ELA class					
Students with disabilities	69.0%	69.0%	73.0%	73.0%	
All students	83.0%	81.0%	82.0%	84.0%	
Gap:SWD and all students	14.0%	12.0%	9.0%	11.0%	
Percent of 12th graders passing English/ELA class					
Students with disabilities	71.0%	74.0%	73.0%	75.0%	
All students	82.0%	81.0%	85.0%	86.0%	
Gap:SWD and all students	11.0%	7.0%	12.0%	11.0%	

At what point is a student considered off-track for graduation? **EWS Metrics**

EWS Metrics	Description	Calculation	Green	Yellow	Red
		(Number of days student was			
		in attendance during current			
		school year/number of school			
	Daily Attendance	days during current school		Between 80%	
Attendance	Rate	year) * 100	> 90%	and 90%	<80%
	Number of School				
	Code of Conduct				
Behavior	Violations during	Count of Incidents where			
(School Code of	the current school	Infraction Category is School		4 <= Count	
conduct)	year.	code of conduct violation	0 <= Count <=3	<=5	> 5
-	Number of State				
Behavior (State	Reportable	Count of Incidents where			
Reportable	Offenses during the	Infraction Category is State			
Offenses)	current school year.	Reportable Offense	0	-	> 0
	Math Course				
	Grade for the most				
Course Grades -	recent grading			Between 60	
Math	period	Numeric course grade value	> 70	and 70	< 60
	English/Language				
Course Grades -	Arts Course Grade				
English /	for the most recent			Between 60	
Language Arts	grading period	Numeric course grade value	> 70	and 70	< 60

SSIP Baseline Data – January 2016

Total Number of Students	17,763
Total Students with IEPs	2,862
Percentage	16%
SWD On-Track Total	1912
SWD On-Track Percentage	67%
SWD Off-Track Total	950
SWD Off-Track Percentage	33%

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Five Phases to Increase Graduation Rates and Decrease Dropout Rates for Students with Disabilities

Phase III:

Identify Target Areas of Intervention Based on the Needs of Students with Disabilities Who Are Off-Track



SSIP Process for Supporting Schools



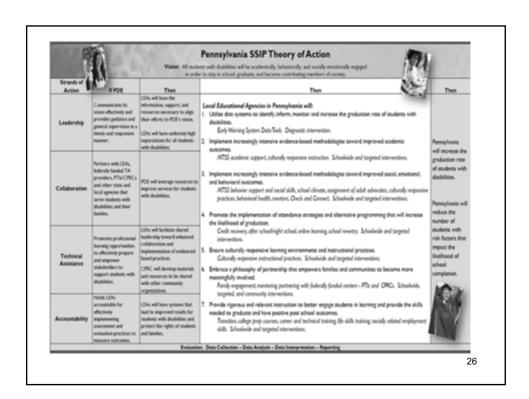
Early Warning System

Attendance, Behavior, Course Performance

Identification of Students with Disabilities who are Off-Track

Development of Plan

For those Students with Disabilities who are Off-track



SSIP Coherent Improvement Strategies

Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Academic

Strategy 2: Implement increasingly intensive evidencebased methodologies toward improved academic outcomes



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PA-MTSS

School-Wide Systems for Student Success: PA's MTSS Model

Academic Systems

Tier 3/Tertiary Interventions

<u>Few</u>

 Individual students Assessment-based High intensity

Tier 2/Secondary Interventions

- Some
 Some students (at-risk)
- High efficiency
- Rapid response
- •Small group interventions
- Some individualizing

Tier 1/Universal Interventions

•All students

Preventive, proactive

Illinois PBIS Network, Revised May 15, 2008. Adapted from "What is school-wide PBS?" OSEP Technical Assistance Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. Accessed at http://pbis.org/schoolwide.htm

Behavioral Systems

Tier 3/Tertiary Interventions

- Individual students
- Assessment-based
- •Intense, durable procedures

Tier 2/Secondary Interventions

- ·Some students (at-risk)
- ·High efficiency
- •Rapid response
- •Small group interventions
- Some individualizing

Tier 1/Universal Interventions

- · All settings, all students
- Preventive, proactive

MTSS Academics: Focus on Mathematics

- Revisited schedule and math course sequence
 - Double Block Algebra A/B during 9th grade
 - Simplified course offerings
- Explored alignment between Keystone Eligible Content and current scope and sequence for Algebra I
- Team attended MTSS Forum in October 2016 with a focus on secondary math instruction/SSIP

- CRA Integers and Equations training for high school Algebra teachers and 8th grade Algebra teachers
 - Increase knowledge base around instructional practices
 - Increase communication between two middle schools and the high school Algebra teachers
- Training from IU on how to structure/plan for the Algebra block
- PaTTAN's online Algebra course

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MTSS Academics: Literacy + Other Subjects

- Achieve 3000 (computer based program)
- Language LIVE! Intervention addition to the ELA credits.
- Language!Live Language Arts 9th
 Grade Course replacement
 intervention for struggling 9th
 graders
- Compass Learning for all students
 - Learning Pathways provide individualized remediation program
- Read I 80
- System 44

- Biology 10th Grade -- Co-teaching model put in place to counteract high failure rate in course
- Math 180, Math Hybrid Model
- Homework Club
- Career Exploration summer program
- Word Generation
- TransMath
- Inside Algebra



MTSS Academics: Approaches/Scheduling

- On an informal basis, students can meet with teachers before or after lunch for additional assistance.
- After school programming is being offered as well as summer school for students.
- Some interventions are scheduled periods throughout the day and students may or may not receive credit for that course/intervention.
- Modified core curriculum in four content areas to meet student need with a course offering called "Period 10"
- National Honor Society tutoring

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MTSS Academic: Supports

Professional Development:

- Differentiated Instruction in High School; Strategies to increase differentiated content delivery
- Reading specialists being trained in Language Essentials for Teacher of Reading and Spelling (LETRS)
- Training in Language Live!, Read 180, System 44, Achieve 3000 and other interventions, programs, supports as needed

Attending Conferences:

 Core Team members attended the MTSS Implementers' Forum 2016 with a strand focus of Math & Writing.

Other Approaches:

- Case Management System Revised -- Each Special Education Teacher (Case Manager) will
 follow assigned special education students from grade 9 through graduation.
- Co-teaching model utilized
- · Increased focus on screening and progress monitoring

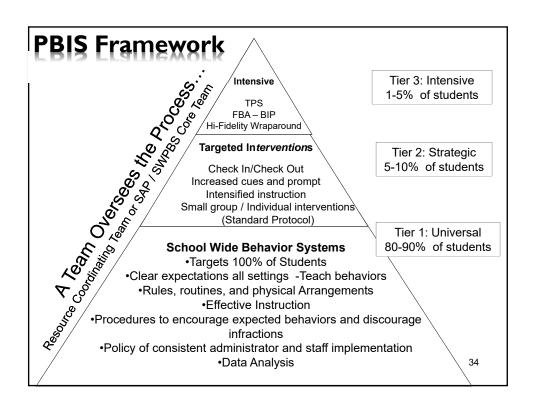
SSIP Coherent Improvement Strategies

Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Behavior

Strategy 3: Implement increasingly intensive evidence-based methodologies toward improved social, emotional, and behavioral outcomes



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Check & Connect Pelationship building Long-term commitment Persistence-Plus Systematic monitoring Focus on alterable variables Problem solving Capacity building Personalized, data-based intervention Promoting participation/affiliation with school Engagement with Families Pronnect, partner, and engage with parents/families

Engaging Families in Check and Connect

Methods of Contact with Families

- Phone Calls
- Letters/Newsletters
- Remind App
- Emails
- Home Visits

Family Night

- All families that are part of Check and Connect will be invited to the school for a Family Night.
- Tickets will be created for the event. All family members are invited.
- Dinner and Transportation will be provided.
- Information will be provided to families and students regarding graduation requirements and how they can support attendance, behavior, and course performance at home.

RENEW – Tier 3 Support



"RENEW is a structured school-to-career transition planning and individualized wraparound process for youth with emotional and behavioral challenges."

RENEW GOALS

✓ High School Completion

- ✓ Employment
- √ Postsecondary Education
- √ Community Inclusion

RENEW PRINCIPLES

- ✓ Self-Determination
- ✓ Unconditional Care
- ✓ Strengths-Based Supports
- ✓ Building Family, Natural and **Community Supports**
- ✓ Individualized School-to-Career **Planning**

SSIP Learning Sites Implementation Status



Implementing Schoolwide PBIS	Recognition for PBIS	Check and Connect	RENEW
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SSIP Coherent Improvement Strategies

Attendance Strategies and Alternative Programming

Strategy 4: Promote the implementation of attendance strategies and alternative programming that will increase the likelihood of graduation



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Attendance Strategies and Alternative Programming

- Improving graduation rates through supports and programs that:
 - Strive to eliminate the need to dropout
 - Offer attendance strategies and alternative options for student engagement, reentry to school, and school completion



Sample Tiered Approach for Attendance



· Check and Connect or Mentor Program

- Truancy Elimination Plans (Attendance Success Plans)
- Home Visits
- Intensive Case Management with coordination of public agency and legal response as needed
- Check In and Check Out or provide a mentor to check in with students
 Provide personalized early outreach to identify barriers/problem solve
- · Meet with families to create attendance plan
- Recognize good and improved attendance on a weekly/monthly basis
- · Survey students for reinforcers
- Monitor attendance and set schoolwide goals (create a campaign within the school and community)
- Educate students and families about the importance of attendance (website, social media messages, posters, newsletters, trainings)
 Identify and address common barriers to getting to school
- Establish a positive and engaging school climate (PBIS is an eventual goal)
- Attendance Director will make visits to elementary and middle schools to spread attendance awareness with students, teachers, and families
- Share PaTTAN Attendance/Family Engagement publications on website and school office

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Alternative Programming: Credit Recovery



How many credits are required to graduate?

One Example:

- 4 credits of English
- 4 credits of Math
- 3 credits of Science
- 3.5 credits of Social Studies
- 1.5 credits of Fitness/Wellness (must include Health)
- 6.5 credits of Elective courses
- 0.5 credits Information Communication Technology (ICT)
- = 23.0 credits total
- Students identified using EWS
- Important to regularly monitor and report credit accrual to students and families

Alternative Programming: Credit Recovery

Online Courses

- Full online program
- Blended learning/Hybrid approach
- Before/after school and during summer
- "Virtual Academy"
 - Option of virtual learning half-day and work half-day; self-paced
- "Innovation Academy" in summer with topics of broad interest
 - Assessed using project based/alternate assessmen€s

Alternative Programming: Credit Recovery

- "Period 10"
 - Computer-assisted instruction in core subjects
- Rescheduled classes
- Summer school
 - Collaborative with neighboring districts
 - Students earn ½ credit for each make-up course
 - Students dropped for excessive tardiness/absences

SSIP Coherent Improvement Strategies

Culturally Responsive Practices

Strategy 5: Ensure culturally responsive environment and instructional practices



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"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced." $James\ Baldwin$



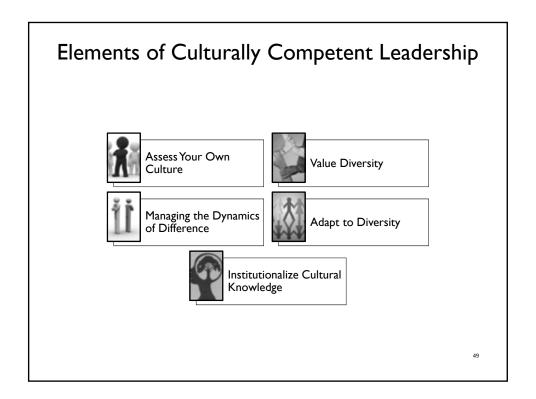


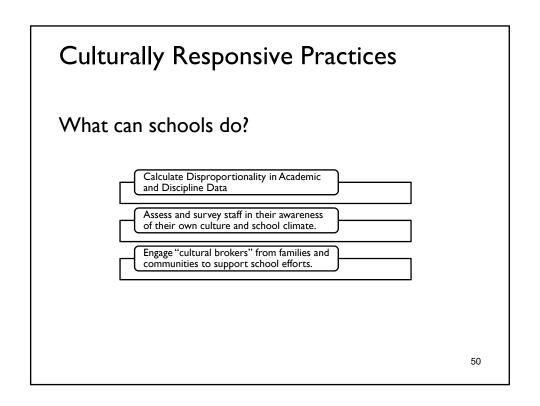
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Characteristics of Culturally Responsive Teaching

- 1. Positive perspectives on parents and families
- 2. Communication of high expectations
- 3. Learning within the context of culture
- 4. Student-centered instruction
- 5. Culturally mediated instruction
- 6. Reshaping the curriculum
- 7. Teacher as facilitator







SSIP Coherent Improvement Strategies

Family Engagement

Strategy 6: Embrace a philosophy of partnership that empowers families and communities to become more meaningfully involved



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Families' Role in High School Graduation

When families are involved:

- Students achieve more, regardless of socioeconomic status, ethnic/racial background, or the parents' education level (Antunez, 2000).
- Students have higher grades and test scores, better attendance, and complete homework more consistently, and go on to postsecondary education (National Parent Teacher Association, 2009).

Tips for Families

Attendance

- Ensure your son/daughter arrives on time each day to school.
- Inform the school immediately if there are matters that may arise that may affect the attendance of your son/daughter.
 Check-in with your student's teachers about your son's/daughter's attendance for each class.

Behavior

- · Consider how your son/daughter interacts with others in the school environment.

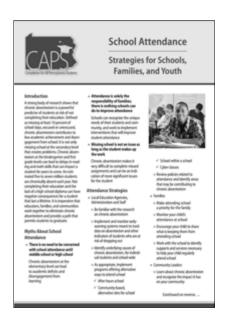
- Be alert to any signs that may indicate bullying.
 Share your concerns with the school-both the negative and positive. Open communication is key.
 Share with the school if there are changes or problems at home that might affect the student's behavior in school.

Course

- Review your son's/daughter's progress reports, report card, and progress on IEP goals. Is she or he passing all courses? If not, do you know who to speak with and how to seek help for your son or daughter?
- Know graduation requirements for your son/daughter. Ask about credits and how many are needed for graduation.
 Regularly attend conferences and IEP meetings.

PaTTAN Publications





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Recursos en Español



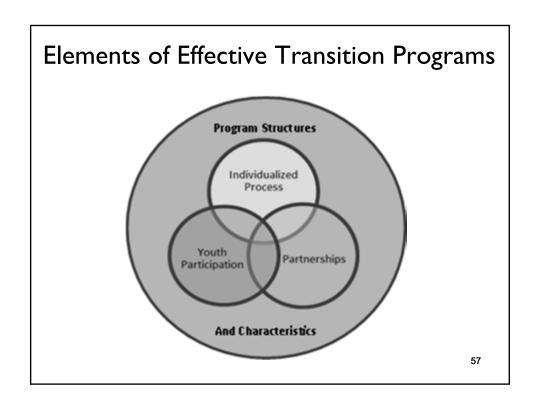
SSIP Coherent Improvement Strategies

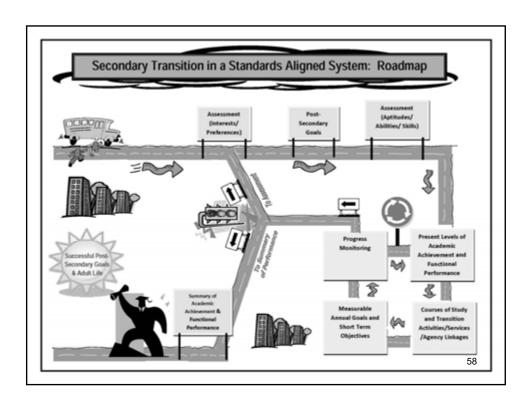
Secondary Transition

Strategy 7: Provide rigorous and relevant instruction to better engage students in learning and provide the skills needed to graduate and have positive post school outcomes.



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PA Career Zone

https://www.pacareerzone.org/

- Assess yourself to help choose a satisfying job or occupational field
- Explore job families within a field of interest
- Budget your life and calculate how much money you will need to support your dreams and goals
- Build a profile of resumes and letters of interest
- Search colleges and training programs



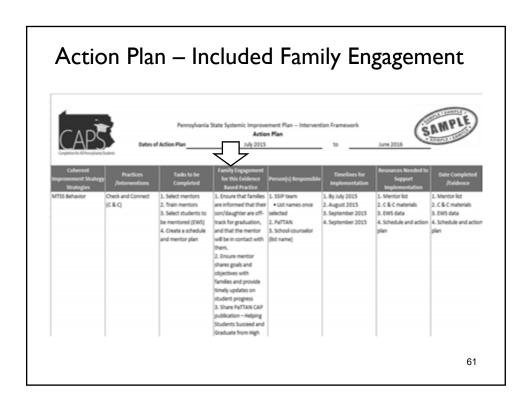
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Five Phases to Increase Graduation Rates and Decrease Dropout Rates for Students with Disabilities

Phase IV:

Develop Improvement Plan (or revise current improvement plan)





Five Phases to Increase Graduation Rates and Decrease Dropout Rates for Students with Disabilities

Phase V: Implement, Monitor, and Evaluate



SSIP Data Meeting School Name Date: Data Collector of Reports/Lists of Students: Facilitator: Timekeeper: Recorder: Team Members in Attendance (Suggested to have names already in place and then put an "X" by those in attendance.)

Data Protocol

Timeframe	Topic	Notes:
5 min.	EWS Team Meeting Overview Students to be discussed, from the support list; new pieces of data; reminders about paperwork.	
25 min.	Student Review Discuss students past and proposed interventions; focus on a certain number of students in the allotted time and/or look for patterns in the data with a group of students and determine next steps/interventions.	
5 min.	Announcements	
5 min.	Share Successes — 1 highlight for each member or randomly call on participants to share success.	

Another Example of Data Protocol for Individual Students

Early Warning System-Interdisciplinary Team Intervention & Data Review: Proposed Interventions

Meeting Date: A-B-C (Attendance- Behavior- Course Performance)

Student	A-B-C of Concern	Data supporting A-B-C (Review IEPS)	Intervention Options/Strategie s	Person(s) Responsible	Student Follow-Up (Date)	Family Follow-Up (Date)

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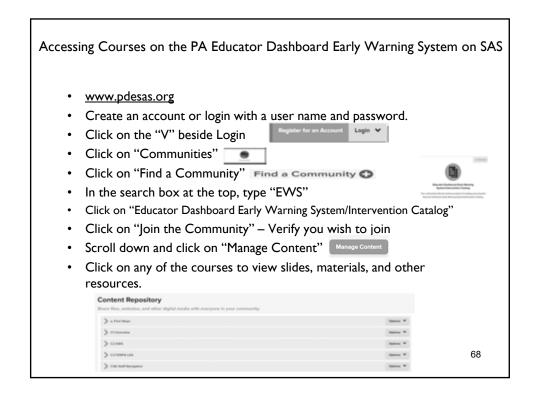
Resources



PaTTAN Resources

- www.pattan.net
- Under "Educational Initiatives" click on "Increasing Graduation Rates and Decreasing Dropout Rates"





Online Resources

- Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) -- www.pattan.net
- National Technical Assistance Center for Transition -http://transitionta.org/
- Pennsylvania Standards Aligned System (SAS) www.pdesas.org
- Pennsylvania Secondary Transition Guide www.secondarytransition.org
- Attendance Works http://www.attendanceworks.org/
- PA Career Zone
 https://www.pacareerzone.org/

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Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Tom Wolf, Governor