

# Pennsylvania Fellowship Program for Special Education Leaders

Welcoming Cohort 15 Applicants  
2024 - 2025

## PaTTAN Leadership Initiative

Achieving Balance:



Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network

# Pennsylvania Fellowship Program for Special Education Leaders

The Pennsylvania Fellowship Program (PFP) for School Age Special Education Leaders is a year-long comprehensive continuum of professional development that will result in a systematic view of special education while building the leadership capacity of the participants. 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 those professionals with three or less years of experience as a special education leader. 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 in a school age setting 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 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 with five or more years of experience as a special education administrator to receive support, ideas, and resources. Opportunities for structured mentoring, networking, and collaboration will be provided to PFP participants.
- 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?**

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

## What is my commitment as a PFP Special Education Fellow?

- Provide payment for the registration fee of \$250. The registration fee covers the cost of meals provided during in-person sessions. Travel expenses, including hotel accommodations and additional meals, are paid by you or the employer.
- Attend all professional development sessions as outlined on page 4 of this document. Attendance for the duration of all sessions is expected.
- Participate in a customized [Gettysburg Leadership Experience on the Battlefields](#) in Gettysburg on September 24, 2024. PFP sessions following the Leadership Experience will take place at the Wyndham, Gettysburg, PA.
- Attend the PA Department of Education Conference February 5-7, 2025, at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, PA. Your registration cost is paid by the PaTTAN Leadership Initiative. Travel expenses, including hotel accommodations and additional meals, are paid by you or the employer.
- 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, attend the Gettysburg Leadership Experience, and the PDE conference, as related to the PFP.
- Provide the payment for the registration fee of \$250. The registration fee covers the cost of meals provided at the in-person sessions. Travel expenses, including hotel accommodations and additional meals, are paid by you or the employer.

## Does participation in the PFP qualify for Act 48?

Yes, Act 48 hours are awarded for each PFP session. There are 41 hours available for this program. Should the 2024-2025 Pennsylvania Fellowship Program be affected by unforeseen events, program adjustments may be necessary.

## You are invited to apply if you have:

- A full-time professional school age special education administrative position with three or less years in your current administrative role.
- The endorsement of your LEA/Charter superintendent/chief executive officer.
- 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 composed of other special education leaders.

To apply for the 2024-2025 Pennsylvania Fellowship Program for Special Education Leaders, complete an application by the close of business on Friday, August 30, 2024. To access the application, use the following link: <https://forms.gle/yYFLmL7Q11NXLH7x7>.

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/yrRxcn3QeGj9EBmg9>.

All applicants will be notified of their status by Friday, September 6, 2024.

## Direct questions regarding the Pennsylvania Fellowship Program to:

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# Pennsylvania Fellowship Program for Special Education Leaders

## 2024 - 2025 Calendar

\*Optional Networking Opportunities

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
September 19, 2024	Virtual	9:30 AM to 12:00 PM
September 24, 2024	In-person Gettysburg Leadership Experience: Meet at the Wyndham Gettysburg	10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
September 25, 2024	In-person at the Wyndham Gettysburg	8:00 AM to 12:30 PM
October 10, 2024	*Solution Based Conversations Virtual Networking Opportunity	2:00 PM to 3:30 PM
November 19, 2024	In-person at the PaTTAN Central Office	10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
November 20, 2024	In-person at the PaTTAN Central Office	8:00 AM to 12:30 PM
December 4, 2024	*Solution Based Conversations Virtual Networking Opportunity	12:30 PM to 2:00 PM
January 16, 2025	Virtual	8:00 AM to 12:30 PM
January 16, 2025	*Solution Based Conversations Virtual Networking Opportunity	2:00 PM to 3:30 PM
February 4, 2025	In-person at the PaTTAN Central Office (Prior to the PDE Conference)	11:00 AM to 4:00 PM
February 5, 2025	In-person Networking Opportunity at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center (Prior to the PDE Conference)	9:30 AM to 11:30 AM
February 5 - February 7, 2025	PDE Annual Conference- Making a Difference: Educational Practices That Work  In-person at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center	TBA
February 18, 2025	*Solution Based Conversations Virtual Networking Opportunity	8:00 AM to 9:30 AM
March 12, 2025	Virtual	8:00 AM to 12:30 PM
March 13, 2025	Virtual	8:00 AM to 12:30 PM
March 13, 2025	*Solution Based Conversations Virtual Networking Opportunity	2:00 PM to 3:30 PM
April 15, 2025	*Solution Based Conversations Virtual Networking Opportunity	8:00 AM to 9:30 AM
May 7, 2025	In-person Graduation Ceremony at the Toftrees Golf Resort in State College	10:00 AM to 2:30 PM