



PULSE - Principals Understanding Leadership in Special Education: 2025-2026 Save the Date

Note: The Fall and Winter series will be offered virtually via Zoom. Participants are required to log in to Zoom and remain online for the duration of each training day (see schedule on page 2).

This 30-hour ACT 45 approved course aims to build upon the working knowledge and skill set a principal needs to successfully innovate and program for students with disabilities. The growing field of research at the intersection of principal and special education yields evidence-based practices that support outcomes for students with disabilities. PULSE coursework incorporates a variety of essential topics throughout the three instructional days, such as the use of data practices, instructional strategies, innovations to improve student achievement, legal literacy, and implementation of and sustaining evidence-based practices. Through retrieval and analysis of data related to special education to understanding programming options for inclusive systems and individual student supports, participants will increase their abilities to lead and impact student and systems growth. Other experiences that encourage knowledge and skills around special education include self-assessment, lectures, review of literature, videos, scenarios, discourse, and action research design.

Objectives:

Upon completion, participants will be able to:

- Identify the roles and responsibilities of a Local Education Agency (LEA) representative
- Identify key principles of IDEA and Chapter 14 regulations
- Assess Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)
- Analyze and implement the use of data to guide decision making
- Identify instructional and behavioral practices that impact all students
- Identify organizational culture and core values to strengthen relationships with family and educational partners

Day 1 – The Essentials of Special Education

Participants will be introduced to key concepts foundational to special education. This includes a historical overview and a conceptual understanding of special education practices, followed by a deep dive into the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process. Attendees will also explore the role of the Local Education Agency (LEA) representative and the importance of Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) in ensuring students are educated in settings that best meet their needs. Additionally, the session will cover Specially Designed Instruction (SDI), related services, supplementary aids and services (SaS), and assistive technology (AT), as well as address considerations for secondary transition planning.

Day 2 – Supporting Effective Behavioral Systems

Participants will focus on addressing dropout and graduation rates through the lens of the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP), Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS), and Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). The session will also explore a multi-tiered approach to school discipline, emphasizing proactive strategies. Key topics include conducting Functional Behavioral Analyses (FBA) and developing Positive Behavior Support Plans (PBSP), understanding the process of manifestation determination, and the use of restraints. The day will conclude with discussions on addressing mental health needs, available resources, and recommended supports for students.

Day 3 – Leading Effective Instruction

Day three of the course will focus on systems change and the critical role of family engagement in supporting students with disabilities. Participants will explore Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) as frameworks for inclusive education. The session will cover high-leverage practices for effective teaching, strategies for supporting students with significant cognitive disabilities, and how to empower all staff working with students with disabilities. The day will conclude with discussions on utilizing data and effective design in project planning to drive meaningful improvements in special education services.

Day 4 - Final Project

Participants will be afforded the opportunity to present their culminating learning project during Day 4 of the PULSE series. PaTTAN instructors and cohort participants will be allotted time to ask questions and provide feedback on individual presentations.

Please note

As part of the 30 hours of ACT 45 each instructional day requires additional prereading/instructional activities. Participants are expected to complete the prereading activities as outlined on the course syllabus prior to each instructional day.

PULSE ~ Fall, 2025 Virtual		
Day 1	October 29, 2025	8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Day 2	November 18, 2025	8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Day 3	December 17, 2025	8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Day 4	January 21, 2026	8:30 AM - 11:30 AM or 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM

PULSE ~ Winter, 2026 Virtual		
Day 1	January 28, 2026	8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Day 2	February 11, 2026	8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Day 3	March 4, 2026	8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Day 4	April 8, 2026	8:30 AM - 11:30 AM or 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Feedback from past learners:

"I really enjoyed sharing my ideas and getting useful feedback."

"I enjoyed the class tremendously and learned so much."

"Thanks again, for a great PILS opportunity!"

"Keep up the good work on behalf of staff and students!"

"I learned a lot and enjoyed this course. Presenters were fantastic! They are very energetic, knowledgeable, and funny!"

"I would like to thank the team for a truly outstanding PULSE experience! The quality facilitation, dynamic materials and resources, and the authentic collaboration with colleagues made our time together most enjoyable and is sure to have a positive impact on my practice moving forward."

Presenters: PaTTAN Educational Consultants

Audience: This course is designed specifically for General Education Administrators – Principals and Assistant Principals. **Only** general education administrators will be accepted to participate. Please do not complete an application if you do not currently serve as either a building principal or assistant principal.

How to Complete an Application:

Please use the following link to access the PULSE application. <https://forms.gle/ASYUhB2hxMZZXDEt8>

Application deadline for the **PULSE Fall series** is the close of business on Wednesday, October 1, 2025.

All applicants will be notified via email of their status by Wednesday, October 15, 2025.

After notification of approval, applicants will be provided a registration key to complete registration online via the PaTTAN website.

For questions regarding content, contact:

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PaTTAN West - Sue Fariss - sfariss@pattanpgh.net

For questions regarding registration, contact:

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