

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

September 11, 2018

PENN*LINK

TO: School District Superintendents
School District Special Education Directors
Intermediate Unit Executive Directors
Intermediate Unit Special Education Directors
Charter School Chief Executive Officers
Charter School Special Education Directors
Approved Private School Chief Executive Officers
Approved Private School Special Education Directors

FROM: Ann Hinkson-Herrmann, Director
Bureau of Special Education

SUBJECT: Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment (PASA): Updates and Training for Assessment Coordinators

The purpose of this PENN*LINK is to provide school administrators with important information regarding the Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment (PASA) for the 2018-19 school year.

The PASA enrollment window is from October 1, 2018 through November 16, 2018. The enrollment window will not be available after this date. Only students newly identified as Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and PASA eligible or new to the service provider may be enrolled through the PASA vendor after November 16, 2018. All other requests to enroll students outside of the enrollment window will be directed to the Bureau of Special Education (BSE).

The PASA test administration window is from February 25, 2019 through April 12, 2019 for all content areas. The service provider may determine the schedule for test administration within this window, including the order in which the subject area assessments are administered.

A live webinar training entitled "2019 PASA Getting Ready" will be held on **September 25, 2018** from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. This training is sponsored directly by the Bureau of Special Education and is separate from the PASA Test Administration training provided by the assessment vendor. The 2019 PASA Getting Ready training is designed for special education administrators and the PASA Assessment Coordinator (AC). Guidance from BSE is that the PASA AC continue to be an administrator with decision making authority on behalf of the local education agency (LEA) or service provider. The training will provide a high-level overview of important factors in the assessment cycle – enrollment, training, administration, accountability, and reporting.

BSE will also provide updated information regarding the six criteria used by Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams to determine PASA eligibility. The six eligibility criteria have been refined to provide further clarification and considerations to aid in IEP team decision making. It is imperative that LEAs and service providers adhere to the revised PASA Eligibility Criteria for the 2018-19 school year as BSE continues to examine student participation as required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

LEAs and service providers are strongly encouraged to ensure participation of the PASA AC in this training. The PASA AC receives important assessment announcements through electronic mail from the PASA vendor and serves as the point of contact with the PASA vendor and BSE. Please ensure that contact information in the PASA digital system is current.

PASA ACs and special education administrators responsible for the implementation of the PASA may register for the training session via the following link:

<https://paiu.zoom.us/j/766271721>

This webinar will be presented through Zoom. The training will be recorded and posted on both the Pennsylvania Department of Education and Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network websites following the training for staff who are unable to attend.

Questions regarding this training opportunity may be directed to Lisa Hampe, Special Education Adviser, at lihampe@pa.gov or 724.425.3000; or Lynda Lupp, Statewide Assessment Coordinator, at llupp@pattan.net or 800.441.3215, ext. 7233.

This message was sent via PL-SPECIALED@LISTS.PSU.EDU, the Special Education e-mail listserv of the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

To subscribe to this list (which is free), send a blank message to PL-SPECIALED-SUBSCRIBE-REQUEST@LISTS.PSU.EDU.

To unsubscribe from this list, send a blank message to PL-SPECIALED-UNSUBSCRIBE-REQUEST@LISTS.PSU.EDU.

To contact the managers of this list, send an email to PL-SPECIALED-REQUEST@LISTS.PSU.EDU.