

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

August 1, 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 Executive Directors  
Approved Private School Special Education Directors  
Area Vocational Technical School Directors  
Area Vocational Technical Special Education Directors  
Career and Technology Center Directors  
Career and Technology Center Special Education Directors

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

SUBJECT: Pennsylvania Chapter 14: Final-Omitted Rulemaking to Amend Terminology

The purpose of this PENN\*LINK is to announce the change in terminology replacing the term mental retardation with intellectual disability located in 22 PA Code Chapter 14 titled Special Education Services and Programs.

To align the Commonwealth's special education regulations in Chapter 14 to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act regulatory revisions resulting from Rosa's Law, the State Board of Education through final-omitted rulemaking amended 22 PA Code §§ 14.123, 14.124, 14.125, 14.132, 14.143 and 14.162, by replacing the term mental retardation with the term intellectual disability. The change in terminology does not affect the meaning or the eligibility determination associated with the term.

The final-omitted rulemaking affects public, private, parochial, or nonpublic schools, including vocational schools, intermediate units, and special education and home education programs and their employees. The final-omitted rulemaking also affects citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with school-aged children and their children.

In addition to the Chapter 14 terminology changes, documents issued from the Bureau of Special Education (BSE) located on the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) website will be amended. Local educational agencies are advised to update the forms they currently use to reflect those on the PaTTAN website. BSE intends to have the forms ready for use with the start of the 2018-19 school year.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact John Gombocz at 717.772.3745 or [jgombocz@pa.gov](mailto:jgombocz@pa.gov).