PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
November 12, 2016
Penn*Link

TO: School District Superintendents
School District Special Education Directors
School District Teachers
Intermediate Unit Executive Officers
Intermediate Unit Special Education Directors
Intermediate Unit Assessment Consultants
Charter School Executive Directors
Charter School Special Education Directors
Charter School Teachers
Approved Private School Executive Directors
Approved Private School Special Education Directors
Approved Private School Teachers
Building and District Testing Administrators

FROM: Patricia Hozella, Director
Bureau of Special Education

Ray Young, Chief
Division of Instructional Quality
Bureau of Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction

SUBJECT: Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) and Keystone Exam Accommodation Guidelines for Students with Individualized Education Programs and 504 Plans

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) is offering the following opportunity to participate in a webinar on accommodations for the PSSA and Keystone Exams. This training will also be recorded and posted on both the PDE and PaTTAN websites with handouts.

The webinar is scheduled for Friday, November 18, 2016, from 1-3 p.m. The link to register is: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4805312593633042691

Participants will receive a registration confirmation which will contain directions for joining the webinar and a complete listing of system requirements. If you experience any difficulties with registration, please contact Sharon Kennedy at 800-360-7282 or SKennedy@pattan.net.

PDE strongly encourages the participation of teachers who directly administer the PSSAs or Keystone Exams and are responsible for the implementation of accommodations for all students, including students with individualized education programs and 504 Plans, and all English language learner students. Presenters from PDE will examine the PSSA and Keystone Exams Accommodations Guidelines for Paper/Pencil and Online Assessments. During this session, presenters will highlight changes and discuss appropriate use of accommodations in statewide assessments. Please note there are several significant changes regarding Unique Accommodations procedures. Test security and administration procedures will also be discussed.

Should you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Diane Simaska at 717.346.8064 or dsimaska@pa.gov.