

- Fact Sheet -
Topic: *Training and Technical Assistance*

Purpose of Training and Technical Assistance:

The Bureau of Special Education is committed to providing on-site technical assistance and professional development for the purpose of ensuring that local school districts and other local education agencies have the knowledge and capacity to:

- Welcome all students into their neighborhood school, regardless of severity of disability.
- Provide individualized education programs in the least restrictive environment.
- Plan appropriate supplementary aids and services in regular education classrooms which will enable students with disabilities to be educated in regular education classrooms to the maximum extent appropriate.

Professional Development and Technical Assistance will be based on:

- Needs of school districts and Intermediate Unit (IU) personnel.
- Research-based practices.
- Results of a district needs assessment evaluating actual practice against standards for good practice in the field.

Components of Professional Development and Technical Assistance

- Training school district staff and families in the use of supplementary aids and services in regular education class for students with disabilities.
- Training and technical assistance in research-based practices and specialized interventions.
- Assistance in the development and delivery of customized, sustained technical assistance plans.
- On-site technical assistance and consultation in response to requests from parents.

Professional Development will be provided by:

- Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PATTAN).
- Local Intermediate Unit personnel – every IU has designated IDEA Training and Consultation staff responsible for delivering support to local schools in inclusive practices.
- Higher Education partners and other consultants.

Collaboration with Higher Education to encourage:

- Increase in pre-service training in inclusive practices and student teaching placements in inclusive settings.
- Assistance in induction and mentoring programs.

Mini-Grant Program

- Designed to fund school district initiatives to expand and/or develop inclusive practices in schools.
- Designed to overcome gaps in knowledge and skills identified by the needs assessment.
- Available, starting in the 2005 – 2006 school year.

For More Information:

- Contact the “Inclusive Practices Project” at your local PATTAN (www.pattan.net) or Training and Consultation staff at your local Intermediate Unit.

This fact sheet provides an overview of some of the obligations contained in the *Gaskin* settlement agreement and should not be relied upon as a complete understanding of the terms of the settlement agreement.

- View the entire settlement agreement at: www.pde.state.pa.us/special_edu/lib/special_edu/Settlement_Agreement.pdf
- For more information for families and advocates of children with special needs, contact The Special Education Consultline: 1-800-879-2301 (Voice/TTY/TDD) or view additional information at: <http://parent.pattan.net>.