



The BSE Communicator

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Summer Trainings Focus on Parents and Educators

John J. Tommasini, Director

What will you learn this summer? Take the time to improve your skills, hear nationally recognized speakers, network with others and gain knowledge of many facets of education by participating in summer training.

The BSE and Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) offer a multitude of trainings throughout the summer. The full listing is available at: <http://www.pattan.net/files/flyers11/summerconf2011.pdf>



2012 PDE Conference, February 28-March 2

If you have not been able to attend the PDE Conference in the past make sure 2012 is your year! The next PDE Conference will be held February 28 – March 2, 2012 at the Hershey Lodge & Convention Center. Mark your calendar now! Conference webcasts of sessions from the 2011 conference are available for viewing at: <http://pdeconference.pattan.net/>



BrainSteps Highlighted in Media Reports

The Harrisburg area BrainSTEPS (Brain Strategies Teaching Educators Parents Students) team has received coverage recently by several media events. The team provided help to a little girl after she was struck in the head by a tree branch.

Brenda Eagan Brown, Brain Injury School Re-Entry program coordinator, said, "Exciting things continue to happen because of BSE's generous support and enthusiasm for the BrainSTEPS Program!" The story was featured by the following:

- Fox 43: www.fox43.com/videobeta/9d145551-e3a0-4e16-9f26-4dbca6d9ac7c/News/3-9-Brainsteps
- The Harrisburg Patriot-News: http://www.pennlive.com/west-shore/index.ssf/2011/03/agency_aids_girls_recovery.html
- WHP/CBS 21 in Harrisburg: <http://www.whptv.com/news/local/story/Back-from-brain-injury/97sVTi6kNUeIMaCIZRIYiw.csp>



ODR Provides Professional Development - "Include Me from the Start"

The Office for Dispute Resolution (ODR) is providing Creating Agreement in Special Education to parents and schools who have been selected to participate in "Include Me from the Start." It was determined by leadership of the Include Me initiative to be relevant and useful training for teams in support of communication and conflict resolution skills for collaborative school and family partnerships.

The first two regional trainings were well received. They took place in November and December 2010 when ODR provided Creating Agreement to the Central Dauphin and Philadelphia school districts. Creating Agreement in Special Education is provided to stakeholders at no cost by the ODR.



You're the only one
who can make a
difference. Whatever
your dream,
go for it!

Earvin "Magic" Johnson

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Tom Corbett,
Governor

Department of Education

Ronald J. Tomalis,
Secretary

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

Carolyn C. Dumaresq,
Ed.D.
Deputy Secretary

Bureau of Special Education

John J. Tommasini,
Director

Patricia Hozella,
Assistant Director

Contact Us:

Pennsylvania
Department of
Education

Bureau of Special
Education
333 Market Street
Harrisburg PA
17126-0333

717-783-6913

[www.education.
state.pa.us](http://www.education.state.pa.us)

Editor:

Marci S. Davis 717-
541-4960, x3922
mdavis@pattan.net

ODR's Work Featured on National Center's Site

Kerry Smith, director of the Office for Dispute Resolution, completed several videotaped interviews, with the director of CADRE (the National Center on Dispute Resolution in Special Education). The videos highlight interviews of the system managers from each of the four exemplar states. Other state managers interviewed were from Iowa, Wisconsin and Oklahoma. View the interviews on their website at: <http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/exemplar/videos.cfm#>

Autism Data Available in National Journal

The PaTTAN Autism project has been working with Dr. Mark Sundberg to write up a summary of the statewide data outcomes. The articles will be published in some peer-reviewed journals over the next few months.

The BSE acknowledges and congratulates the team on this work. A recent review of some of the outcome data cited by Dr. Sundberg is available in Behavior Analyst Online with the PaTTAN citation on page 200 at: <http://www.baojournal.com/BAT%20Journal/VOL-11/BAT%2011-3.pdf>

Recognition for Special Needs Support in Career & Tech Field

Dennis Clark, PaTTAN King of Prussia educational consultant, was named the *Direct Career and Technical Special Needs Support Person of the Year* by the Pennsylvania Association of Career and Technical Education at their 34th annual conference. Congratulations to Dennis for his work on supporting students with disabilities in career and technical education schools!

White House Summit on Bullying Prevention Provides Tips

PaTTAN's Positive Behavior Support team developed statewide resources to provide effective behavior supports to school districts, individual schools, classrooms and students. The Positive Behavior Support professional development activities will concentrate on Bullying Prevention with practices related to classroom management, school discipline, school climate and culture and positive behavior supports.

George Sugai, co-director of the National Technical Assistance Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, funded by the Office of Special Education Programs and U.S. Department of Education, presented remarks at the White House Summit on Bullying Prevention in March. He offers three strategies that ALL members of the school community must "invest formally and diligently in to prevent the development and reduce effectiveness of" bullying behavior:

1. Actively and positively supervise all school settings, for example, classrooms, hallways, gymnasiums, sporting events, dances, and buses, by (a) moving, (b) having our heads up and scanning and (c) interacting.
2. Actively and formally teach, model and recognize those social behaviors that we value in our schools and society, for example, respect, responsibility and caring.
3. Maximize academic engagement and success for all students.

For more information go to www.pbis.org or www.cber.org.

PA Value-Added Assessment System (PVAAS) Reports Available

PVAAS reports are now on-line and available to the public. The reports provide indicators of the effectiveness of a district/LEA/school in making academic progress with students. These show a new way to look at existing data – an objective and more precise way to measure student progress and the value schools and districts add to students' educational experiences. For PVAAS reports, visit <https://pvaas.sas.com>. Achievement results (the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment, or PSSA) and growth results (PVAAS) should be used together to get a more complete picture of student learning. To view the achievement/PSSA results and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) of Pennsylvania's public districts/schools, visit <http://paayp.emetric.net>.