



Pennsylvania
Department of Education

Bureau of School Leadership and Teacher Quality (BSLTQ) Updates

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April 2, 2025



Agenda

1. Chapter 354 Regulation Update
2. New PDE 430 Pilot
3. Intern Certificates
4. School Safety
5. Structured Literacy
6. Communication Issues
7. Out-of-State Policy and Waiver



Chapter 354 Regulation Update

- Department is beginning to draft proposed regulatory package.
- State law charges the PA Department of Education (PDE) with promulgating regulations in Ch. 354 of Title 22 of the Pa Code related to the preparation of educators.
- The regulatory process is complex and includes multiple steps, beginning with Proposed Regulations and ending with Final-Form Regulations.
- PDE held focus groups to collect data and feedback to inform development of the **Proposed Regulations**.
 - When the **Proposed Regulation** is published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*, the public will have 30 days to submit comment.
 - PDE then will then use that feedback to develop the **Final-Form Regulations**.
 - New regulations will not become effective until **Final-Form Regulations** are approved by the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) and published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.



New PDE 430 Pilot

- Ten EPPs are participating in the pilot.
- The pilot programs and PDE will meet in mid-May to discuss the results of the pilot and update the PDE 430 form as needed based on the input received.
- The new form and guidelines will be given to the State Board, and the new form and guidelines will be placed on the website shortly after (June/July).



Update on Intern Certificates

- The number of Type 1 and Type 4 emergency certificates continued to rise in 2023-2024 although at a much slower rate than previous years.
 - 2022-2023 = 882 more Type 1s (4,135); 839 more Type 4s (3,952)
 - 2023-2024 = 442 more Type 1s (4,577); 218 more Type 4s (4,170)
- The number of intern certificates and intern programs continues to increase.
 - Intern Programs:
 - 3/21/2024 = 414
 - 3/11/2025 = 439
 - Intern Certificates:
 - 2021-2022: 139
 - 2022-2023: 162
 - 2023-2024: 183
 - 2024-2025: 122 (as of 3/1/25) – we are hoping to reach at least 250 by the end of the year



School Safety Training Requirements

Section 1317-B of the School Code (24 P.S. § 13-1317-B) states:

*“The standards developed by the department as required by 22 Pa. Code § 49.14 (relating to approval of institutions and alternative program providers) for an approved educator preparation program or approved alternative program, or for an approved program of graduate study or an approved alternative program for the preparation of supervisors or chief school administrators, **shall include a minimum of three semester hours or their equivalent of instruction which incorporates the subjects of training listed under section 1310-B(a)(1)(i) through (v)** and as approved by the committee for candidates who begin a Pennsylvania preparation program or alternate program after July 1, 2025.”*

School Safety Training Requirements (cont.)



Section 1310-B(a)(1)(i-v) include the following:

(a) School entity duties.--School entities shall provide their employees with mandatory training on school safety and security subject to the following based on the needs of the school entity:

(1) Training shall address any combination of one or more of the following, based on the needs of the school entity:

- (i) Situational awareness.*
- (ii) Trauma-informed approaches.*
- (iii) Behavioral health awareness.*
- (iv) Suicide and bullying awareness.*
- (v) Substance use awareness.*

School Safety Training Requirements (cont.)



- EPPs can meet [Section 1317-B](#) by:
 - Creating a 3-hour program or a class/course equivalent
 - Covering the topics in various courses
 - Having students take the SAS course on school safety to be offered in the fall 2025 (students would have to register in SAS and request a certificate from SAS)
 - Attending a professional training (3-hour requirement) before (Stage 3 or Stage 4) field experience/student teaching (this may include YMHA Training)
 - Completing PCCD courses available on-line on the five topics.
- Training must be completed once during a candidate's certification program.
- The meeting of these requirements will be done with an EPP's annual review.

Structured Literacy Training Requirements



- [Section 1205.8 \(24 P.S. § 1205.8\)](#) states as follows:
*“(f.1) **Instructors** for educator preparation programs in this Commonwealth, who teach reading and literacy education programs to prospective educators, shall be trained in foundational skills and instructional interventions based on structured literacy.”*
- Law requires current instructors to meet requirements by August 31, 2025.
- New instructors hired after August 31, 2025, must complete the requirements by the end of the academic year in which they are hired.



Structured Literacy Training Requirement (cont.)

- EPPs can meet [24 P.S. §1205.8](#) by completion of:
 - [KPEERI Exam | The Center for Effective Reading Instruction](#)
 - SAS Introduction to Structured Literacy Course
 - PaTTAN SOR Course: [PaTTAN Science of Reading Course](#) (courses are offered throughout the year)
 - PIL Course: [PaTTAN SL: What Administrators Need to Know](#)
 - OCDEL: Structured Literacy PK-3 – [OCDEL PK-3 Course](#)
 - Training accredited by the International Dyslexia Association – [Independent Teacher Training Programs Accredited by IDA - International Dyslexia Association](#)
 - Act 48 training that is specific to the Science of Reading (from a conference or other acceptable Act 48 training)
- If these trainings were completed in the past, their completion would also be acceptable. Input instructor training to <https://forms.office.com/g/vGZuR51T87>.



TIMS Attestation Changes

Starting in Fall 2025, EPP certification officers will be required to check boxes in TIMS attesting to one of the following:

☐ **The candidate completed at least 50% of their placement in Pennsylvania.**

Check this box when:

- A candidate completes 100% of their 12-week placement in PA; or
- A candidate completes 50% of their 12-week placement in PA and the EPP has submitted the *Out-Of-State/Out-Of-Country Placement Notification Form* to PDE.

☐ **The candidate did not complete at least 50% of their placement in Pennsylvania but had an approved waiver.**

Check this box when:

- A candidate completes 100% of their 12-week placement at an entity outside of PA and the EPP has submitted – and PDE has approved – the *Out-of-State/Out-Of-Country Waiver Form*.

Out-of-State/Out-of-Country EPP Placement Notification Form



The EPP Field Experiences Director must submit an *Out-Of-State/Out-Of-Country Placement Notification Form* for each candidate/intern that wants to complete 50% or less of their field experience outside of PA.

- This includes all field experiences (i.e., student teaching, internships, and clinical experiences).
- EPP must submit the notification form to PDE **before** the candidate begins the out-of-state experience, ideally as soon as the student requests the placement.
- This policy applies to any candidate pursuing an Instructional I or Education Specialist certificate (22 Pa. Code § 354.25(f)) at an entity outside Pennsylvania.



Out-of-State/Country EPP Waiver Form

The EPP Field Experiences Director must submit the *Out-Of-State/Out-Of-Country Waiver Form* to PDE for each candidate/intern who is requesting to complete 100% of the regulatory requirements Instructional I or Education Specialist certificate (22 Pa. Code § 354.25(f)) at an entity outside Pennsylvania.

- This includes field experiences (e.g., student teaching, internships, and clinical experiences) in an entity in another state or country.
- The EPP Field Placement Director completes and submits the form not the candidate/intern.
- The Waiver form must be submitted and approved **before** the out-of-state placement begins.

Out-of-State/Country EPP Waiver Form (cont.)



- Candidates/interns may not begin an out-of-state/country placement until the waiver is approved.
- The only exception is if PDE was notified of a first placement that was out-of-state and the EPP wishes to allow the candidate/intern to remain out-of-state for the second placement while the student is completing the first placement.
- If a candidate/intern completes their placement out-of-state/country and does not have a PDE-approved waiver, they will not be eligible for a PA certification.
- Please be advised that completion of 100% out-of-state/country placement without a waiver approved by PDE may not result in certification in another state.



Out-of-State/Country Waiver Types

- Waiver for approval of an Out-of-State/Country Placement **leading to PA certification**
 - Financial hardship
 - Out-of-state placement near educator preparation program
 - Other extenuating circumstance
- Waiver for approval of an Out-of-State/Country Placement **not leading to PA certification**
 - PA resident not seeking certification in PA
 - Non-PA resident not seeking certification in PA or any other state
 - Non-PA resident seeking certification in another state
 - Other extenuating circumstance
- In either case above, a reason must be given for the request.



Out-of-State/Country Waiver Assurance

The EPP Field Experience Director must assure that:

- The waiver is supported by the EPP's faculty;
- The EPP assigns a knowledgeable supervisor to oversee the candidate;
- The EPP has appropriately trained the cooperating teacher/mentor and the cooperating teacher/mentor meets Chapter 354 guidelines;
- The EPP will provide additional information to PDE as to the qualifications of the cooperating teacher/mentor if requested; and
- The EPP will inform the candidate how the placement may affect financial aid status and professional licensure.



Communication Issues

- For consistency and understanding, it is important that teacher certification updates be shared with programs outside of EPPs.
- You can help by:
 - Including programs (like specialist programs or other programs like art or music which may be outside a College of Education) in education trainings or updates;
 - Notifying programs outside of your colleges or schools about current PDE policies and school code regulations, as well as when PDE policies change; and
 - Inviting programs outside of your colleges/schools to sign up for the BSLTQ update (please send a request to ra-edbsltq@pa.gov).

2nd Annual Advancing Education Together Summit



- **The Summit is Thursday, July 10, 2025, at the Hilton Harrisburg.**
- Sponsored by the Offices of Elementary and Secondary Education and Postsecondary and Higher Education.
- Summit brings together school administrators (i.e., IU executive directors, principals, superintendents, CTE directors) and education deans for a day of learning and collaboration.
- There is no cost for attendance; however, participants must pay for lodging, parking, and transportation.
- Register by scanning the QR code or submitting the registration form at <https://forms.office.com/g/8qD5pLAQxd> by June 13, 2025.





Certifying Officer Training Dates

- **Level 1 Training Dates/Times (Novice Users)**
 - April 28th from 1-2:00 p.m.
 - April 30th from 9-10:00 a.m.
- **Level 2 Training Dates/Times (Experienced Users)**
 - April 28th from 2:30-3:30 p.m.
 - April 30th from 10:30-11:30 a.m.



Contact/Mission

For more information, please contact the following:

- **Email:**
 - ra-edcertquestions@pa.gov – questions about applications, how to become certified
 - ra-edcertstaff@pa.gov – questions about staffing issues, certificate validity
 - ra-edprepprograms@pa.gov – questions about educator preparation programs
 - ra-edbsltq@pa.gov – questions about apprenticeship/experimental programs approvals
- See [Contact the Bureau of SLTQ](#) on the website

The mission of the Department of Education is to ensure that every learner has access to a world-class education system that academically prepares children and adults to succeed as productive citizens. Further, the Department seeks to establish a culture that is committed to improving opportunities throughout the commonwealth by ensuring that technical support, resources, and optimal learning environments are available for all students, whether children or adults.

SBHE Mission



Pennsylvania
State Board of Higher Education

To provide direction, coordination, and support to ensure that institutions of higher education fully meet the workforce and economic development needs of this Commonwealth and ensure that all residents of this Commonwealth have access to affordable, world-class postsecondary education.

PA SBHE: the most broadly representative postsecondary coordinating entity in the nation

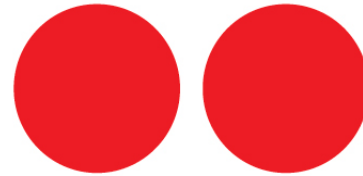


Nine leaders from all major higher education sectors

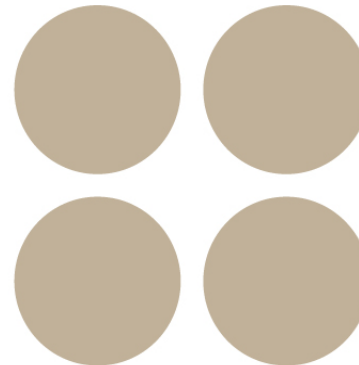


- *Four state related*
- *One community college*
- *One PASSHE institution*
- *One PASSHE board member*
- *One independent college or university*
- *One Thaddeus Stevens*

Two members of Administration: Education and Labor & Industry



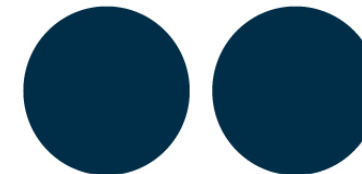
Four Legislators



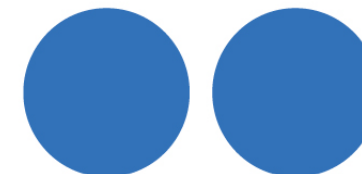
Two students
(independent & publicly funded)



Two business leaders



Two labor leaders





The Board Has Adopted Six Draft Strategic Plan Goals



1. Increase postsecondary credential attainment



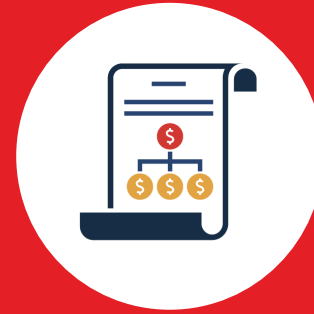
2. Ensure affordable pathways to postsecondary credentials



3. Support the economic development needs of the Commonwealth



4. Support the workforce development needs of the Commonwealth



5. Ensure accountability and efficient use of state funds



6. Strengthen the fiscal health and stability of the higher education sector

Thank you for your input!

Please continue to share your voice, thoughts & ideas...

***Pennsylvanians can
provide input via an on-line
survey, accessible here:***

