

2018 Pennsylvania Community on Transition Conference



Planning Today for a Winning Tomorrow

July 25 – 27, 2018

Penn Stater Conference Center & Hotel
215 Innovation Boulevard
State College, PA 16803

Conference Overview

The sponsors of the conference are the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education, and the PA Training and Technical Assistance Network, in collaboration with members of the PA Community on Transition including:

- PA Youth Leadership Network
- Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology (PIAT)
- Transition State Leadership Team including members from:
 - **Higher Education** (*The George Washington University, The Pennsylvania State University, and Temple University*)
 - **PA Department of Education** (*Bureau of Special Education and Bureau of Career and Technical Education*)
 - **PA Department of Health** (*Bureau of Family Health and Bureau of Community Health Systems*)
 - **PA Department of Human Services** (*Office of Developmental Programs, Office of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services, Office of Children, Youth & Families, and Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services*)
 - **PA Department of Labor & Industry** (*Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Bureau of Workforce Development Partnership, and Pennsylvania State Workforce Investment Board*)
 - **Parent/Advocacy Organizations** (*PA Education & Advocacy Leadership Center (PEAL), Hispanos Unidos para Ninos Excepcionales (HUNE), The Arc of Philadelphia, and The United Way of Allegheny County*)

Primary Purpose

The primary purpose of the conference is to expand the capacity of schools, agencies and communities, in partnership with youth, young adults and families, in promoting the successful transition of youth/young adults with disabilities to post-school outcomes of employment, post-secondary education and training, community participation and healthy lifestyles. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about effective practices to assist youth/young adults with disabilities to explore possibilities, take advantage of their opportunities, and actively advocate for their future.

The conference will feature:

- *Keynote presentations*
- *Approximately 100 breakout sessions*
- *Sessions and activities designed for youth and young adults*
- *Family engaging sessions and networking opportunities*
- *Accommodations and Supports Expo, featuring hands-on assistive technology exhibits, vendor displays and resource tables*

The focal points of the 2018 conference are:

- Promoting success of all youth and young adults by addressing the transition needs of those who are at-risk and struggling
- Empowering families and caregivers with transition knowledge and resources
- Engaging youth and young adults in social interactions and in understanding their potential for post school success
- Building leadership skills of all transition stakeholders to promote successful outcomes of youth and young adults
- Using transition and career assessment, universal design, accommodations, and supports to build the foundation for self-determination and self-advocacy
- Linking transition, behavioral health, and healthy lifestyles to promote success in adult life by empowerment through self-determination and self-advocacy
- Showcasing evidence-based and effective practices with youth outcome data
- Building and supporting community partnerships and local transition coordinating councils

Conference Registration

- Conference registration will be available online after **May 15, 2018** at www.pattan.net.
- A per person registration fee of \$150 will be charged for this year's conference.
- A limited number of scholarships will be available for family members or caregivers and accompanied high school youth between the ages of 16- 21 who are currently enrolled in a high school program and need support in order to attend the conference. Scholarships will be awarded by an application selection process. The scholarship will cover the registration fee and hotel (one room up to a maximum of 3 nights).
- Information regarding scholarships and the conference registration fee will be available online after May 15, 2018 at www.pattan.net and www.secondarytransition.org.

Proposal Guidelines

Proposal Submission

Deadline – January 22, 2018

All proposal applicants should review the presentation guidelines prior to completing the Presentation Proposal Form.

Presentation Proposal Form:

The proposal is to be submitted electronically to

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018PATransConf>. All fields of the proposal must be addressed/completed to be considered for the conference.

Incomplete proposals will be ineligible.

Please direct any questions regarding a proposal submission to:

paconf2018@gmail.com

Presentation Format (90 Minute Sessions)

All sessions are 90 minutes in length and should include at least 15 minutes for discussion. To be accepted, all proposals must support post-school outcomes and align with a conference theme.

Conference Themes:

The following themes have been identified by transition stakeholders. Each of these themes will be addressed at the 2018 conference.

- Accommodations & Assistive Technology
- Assessment
- Collaborative Partnerships
- Employment
- Effective Educational Practices
- Healthy Lifestyles
- Independent Living & Community Participation
- Knowledge Building: Agency Information
- Knowledge Building: Disability Specific Information
- Models of Success
- Post-Secondary Education & Training
- Pre-Employment Transition Skills
- Transition & Career Assessment
- Youth Development & Youth Leadership
- Youth-Family Partnership Session

Selection Criteria

Proposal selection is based on the following:

- Degree to which the proposal aligns with the **conference purpose and theme(s)**
- Participation by **cross-systems teams** (e.g. interagency) including families/caregivers
- Participation of **youth/young adults** and/or adults with disabilities as presenters
- **Clarity, organization, and feasibility** of presentation proposal
- Inclusion of **evidence-based or promising practices**
- **Appropriate for a diverse audience** (e.g. youth/young adults, families/caregivers)
- **Potential to replicate and build capacity** of outcome-driven practices
- Degree to which proposal meets the **youth and/or family engaging criteria**

Notification

- The primary presenter will receive notification regarding the proposal status on or before **April 23, 2018**.
- If selected, handouts must be submitted electronically by **July 6, 2018** so that materials may be provided to attendees.

Conference Registration Fee

- **ALL PRESENTERS MUST REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE AND PAY THE \$150 REGISTRATION FEE.**

Targeted Audience:

Stakeholders supporting post-school goals for youth/young adults with disabilities, including:

Advocates
Agency Administrators
Assistive Technology Professionals
Business/Employers
Career & Technology Educators
CareerLink Staff
Direct Support Providers
Drug & Alcohol Program Workers
Education Administrators
Family & Caregivers
Family Health Representatives
Foster and Adoptive Parents
Health Professionals
Higher Education Professionals
Independent Living Staff
Juvenile Justice Affiliates
Job Coaches
Local Government Officials
Local Service Providers
Local Youth Councils
Medical Assistance Program Staff
Mental Health Services Workers
Occupational Therapists
Office of Developmental Programs Staff
Paraprofessionals
Partnerships for Youth Affiliates & Staff
Physical Therapists
Psychologists
Public & Private Child Welfare Workers
School Counselors
School Nurses
Secondary Educators
Social Security Benefits Counselors
Social Security Staff
Social Workers
Special Educators
Speech/Language Therapists
Transition Coordinators
Transportation Affiliates
Vocational Evaluators
Vocational Rehabilitation Staff
Workforce Investment Board Members
Youth & Young Adults
Youth Served in Foster Care