

**- Fact Sheet -**

## *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 general education classrooms, which will enable students with disabilities to be educated in general education classrooms to the maximum extent appropriate.

### **Professional Development and Technical Assistance will be based on:**

- Needs of school district and intermediate unit (IU) personnel.
- Research-based practices.
- Results of a district needs assessment that evaluates 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 general education classes 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 preservice 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](http://www.pattan.net)) or training and consultation staff at your local intermediate unit.

This fact sheet provides an overview of a topic related to obligations contained in the Gaskin Settlement Agreement and should not be relied upon for 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](http://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>.