

UPPER PERKIOMEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Education Center

2229 E. Buck Road Pennsburg, PA 18073

Pupil Services/Special Education Committee Meeting

May 24, 2021

Ex-Officio: Mrs. Melanie Cunningham, President CHAIR: Mrs. Judy Maginnis, MEMBERS: Dr. Kerry Drake, Mike Elliott
Superintendent – Dr. Allyn J. Roche Assistant Superintendent – Dr. Andrea Farina
Director of Special Education–Carol Giblin Supervisor of Special Education – Amy Coyle

Approval of minutes from April 26, 2021 meeting.

Path to Graduation (P2G)

P2G is a grant funded program aimed at supporting middle school students who are identified as having emotional behavioral disorders achieve high school graduation. The Path to Graduation program is based upon research that has shown that dropout indicators can be identified in the middle school years.

Research also shows that students identified with an Emotional Disturbance can:

- Have lower graduation rates and higher dropout rates
- Be more likely to face long-term suspension or expulsion
- Show high rates of self-harm
- Have significant mental health needs
- Be less likely to be included with general education peers
- Be more likely to have academic deficits
- Have an increased likelihood of arrest and/or incarceration

Evidence-based practices when implemented with fidelity will help to improve:

- Student engagement
- Behavior
- Mental health needs
- Secondary transition planning

What does this mean to UPSD?

The P2G program will offer an opportunity to improve graduation rates and reduce risk factors associated with drop-out rates. In collaboration with the MCIU and PaTTan, the program will provide:

- Evidence-based training and professional development
- Resources to address the above factors and concerns related to graduation success

On-site training from PaTTan and the MCIU will establish and sustain:

- Early Warning System (EWS) to identify students with emotional behavioral disorders at risk for future drop out
- Data analysis and data meeting protocols to address system-wide and individual student concerns presenting barriers to school completion
- Evidence based interventions: Check and Connect, Strategic Instructional Model (SIM), Transition Discoveries
- Engage families to support collaboration and increase student success

The anticipated student outcomes will be: increased daily attendance, improved course performance, decreased behavioral incidents resulting in school removals, increased levels of engagement with school and increased likelihood of school completion.