

December 12, 2019

Dear PAT Contacts,

As we near the holidays I want to take a moment to share a couple of exciting opportunities for Parents as Teachers (PAT) that will impact services statewide for children and their families.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is partnering with the Missouri Department of Social Services (DSS) to improve the coordination of home visiting services. The existing DSS home visiting [regions](#) have been provided the following wording in their contracts to support this effort. The DSS contractor will:

- Develop or participate in an existing multi-disciplinarian team within their community consisting of a variety of existing agencies and organizations to include, but not be limited to, representatives from Children's Division and Parents as Teachers that will best meet family needs within the communities served.
- Refer a family that is found to be ineligible based on criteria, program capacity or the home visiting program is found to not be the best fit for the family, to a local Parents as Teachers program or another appropriate home visiting program.

This is a great opportunity for PAT to fill the gap for families that will benefit from our support. I would like to encourage each of you to do your part in supporting this work by participating in the multi-disciplinary team and prioritize referrals from DSS's home visiting regions. Together we can support the work of school readiness with safe and healthy families and children that are ready to learn.

Another opportunity I would encourage is to evaluate the effectiveness of the districts' PAT program by looking at school readiness, attendance and/or MAP scores of children that participated in PAT. This would be a great opportunity to present meaningful data to your school board on the outcomes of PAT. School districts are already required to assign MOSIS numbers to all children participating in family personal visits which will assist in this evaluation.

There is a lot of work ahead and we all play an important part in the big picture. Do not forget to submit your December Invoice and Payment Request as we are getting to the half way mark and we want to make sure programs are on target for meeting allocations. If you have questions regarding these opportunities or invoicing, contact your [Early Learning Supervisor](#). Thanks for your commitment to Missouri's children and families.

Sincerely,



Lana Brooks, Director
Early Learning

c: PAT Supervisor