

November 18, 2019

Dear Parents as Teachers Administrator,

Throughout the program year, the Early Learning section will periodically share information and resources related to your work with Parents as Teachers (PAT). November's focus is goal setting. Goals are used to set direction and determine where you go. Studies indicate there is a strong connection between goal setting and success. People who have goals are more successful than those without goals and those with written goals are more successful than those who do not document them. Writing a PAT program goal will motivate and strengthen quality parent education services to ensure all children and families are safe, healthy and ready to learn.

During the Professional Learning Communities (PLC) in September 2019, we introduced five focus areas for the PAT program. These focus areas will assist programs to utilize their PAT allocation, monitor funding and gather the new data that will be collected on the [Final Invoice](#).

- Increase support at the PAT supervisor level;
- Increase intensity of family visits;
- Maintain focus on high need families;
- Increase prenatal to three family visits; and
- Strengthen PAT data

Programs should consider these focus areas to develop program goals that are strong, measurable and will impact the quality of services being provided to families.

Supervisors and parent educators attending the PLCs were asked to set commitments for themselves as professionals or their program. Attached you will find a general listing of commitments made by participants from across Missouri. Review these commitments to inspire your goals. Setting a goal begins with a goal statement that is specific, measurable and time-sensitive. Districts should utilize their PAT Advisory Committee to assist in this process. Once a goal is set, determine the expected accomplished date and document progress regularly.

The last step is to celebrate your successes by promoting the PAT program in your community including the district's Board of Education. Communicating these accomplishments strengthens your networks and allows for new ideas and opportunities to be formed.

As the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) focuses on strengthening programs statewide it is important that every district complete an Invoice and submit a Payment Request by the end of November. This will allow DESE and individual districts to monitor the use of allocation and services being provided. Be sure to look for additional PAT communication in December when the focus

will be on the strategies used to meet Essential Requirements. Thank you for your work in helping children and families be safe, healthy and ready to learn.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lana Brooks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lana Brooks, Director

C: PAT Contact