Section C. Literacy Needs Assessment and Literacy Plan

Pennsylvania believes that literacy is the key for opportunity and success. The Pennsylvania State Literacy Plan (PaSLP) was designed to serve as a basis for professional learning that will assist districts and charter schools in developing a comprehensive, aligned, and coherent LEA Literacy Plan.

The Complete PA Literacy Needs Assessment (Complete PaLNA) calls for LEAs to establish a Literacy Planning Team with representation from each of the grade spans (birth-age 5, K-5, 6-8, and 9-12). After completing the assessment individually, the planning team will convene to discuss findings and establish consensus on the areas of strength and areas of need. This in-depth analysis will provide LEAs with the information needed to identify specific needs within a component or grade span, or identify any needs existing across the continuum. Results may show a consistent need in a single grade span (ex: 9-12) or a consistent need within a component spanning across all areas (ex: transition). These findings will allow the LEA to identify priority areas for growth and intervention, when writing or revisiting their Local Literacy Plan.

The team may select to use the Partial PA Literacy Needs Assessment (Partial PaLNA) to assess a single grade span and component(s) instead of assessing all grade spans and components within the Complete PaLNA. Each team member completes the selected grade span and component(s) individually prior to meeting as a group. During the group meeting, members are encouraged to share their perspective to help the group reach consensus on each item. If a group is unable to reach consensus on an item, this may indicate that the strategies and actions are *emerging* but not in place consistently.

This in-depth analysis will provide LEAs with the information needed to identify specific needs within a component or a grade span, or identify any needs existing across the continuum. Results may show a consistent need in a single grade span (e.g. 9-12) or a consistent need within a component spanning across all grade spans (e.g. transition). These findings will allow the LEA to identify priority areas for growth and intervention in their LEA Literacy Plan.
The PA Literacy Needs Assessment, Literacy Plan Template and additional resources can be accessed at www.education.pa.gov or www.pdesas.org.