# Section A. PA/PDE Resources: A Call to Action

Section A lists six specific action areas and recommendations to aid districts/charter schools in developing and implementing an effective local literacy plan.

The six action areas in Section A correlate to the categories in the needs assessment.

## Action Area #1: Standards and Goals

**PDE provides:**

- PA Learning Standards from birth to grade 12; and
- Standards Aligned System (SAS) that integrates standards with instruction and assessment available on website.

**Recommendations to districts and charter schools:**

- Align curriculum to PA Early Learning and PA Core Standards;
- Increase rigor in meeting PA Core Standards with commitment to high expectations for all students; and
- Utilize SAS to provide professional learning and technical assistance to increase knowledge and use of available resources, including curriculum mapping tool, curriculum frameworks, assessment tools, instructional resources, and transition documents.

## Action Area #2: Assessment

**PDE provides:**

- PA System of School Assessment (PSSA), Literature Keystone Exam, and Classroom Diagnostic Tool (CDT);
- PA Value Added Assessment System and eMetric, and Future Ready PA Index;
- Ongoing work to develop appropriate assessments for pre-school children; and
- SAS Assessment Builder.

**Recommendations to districts and charter schools:**

- Construct a relevant, coherent, and systemic plan of assessment.
- Develop professional learning to assist schools in making better use of formative assessment for instructional decision making.
- Support teachers in accessing and using longitudinal assessment data.
- Deliver professional learning for teachers and administrators that focuses on:
  - Deeper understanding of the purpose of assessment; and
  - Valid interpretation and use of assessment data.
- Employ available assessment tools, for example, SAS Assessment Builder, Item and Scoring Samplers, and Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content .

### Action Area #3: Instruction and Intervention
**PDE provides:**
- Standards Aligned System (SAS): Standards, Assessments, Curriculum Framework, Instruction, Materials & Resources, and Safe and Supportive Schools;
- Regulations, guidance, materials, and resources for educators regarding curriculum, assessment, and instruction ;
- Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) and Response to Instruction and Intervention (RtI);
- Literacy staff development (birth-grade 12) provided by Intermediate Units (IUs) and Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN);
- Partnership with the Annenberg Foundation and PDE provides the Pennsylvania Institute for Instructional Coaching (PIIC); and
- Initiatives for increasing effectiveness of literacy instruction, for example, LETRS, Literacy Design Collaborative, PIIC, Reading Apprenticeship, TDA Cadre of Experts.

**Recommendations to districts and charter schools:**
- Encourage the use of SAS to access materials and resources focused on a standards-aligned system.
- Provide quality resources in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, listening, including disciplinary literacy.
- Deliver professional learning that builds teachers' and administrators' knowledge of evidence-based, rigorous instruction.
- Improve teaching of disciplinary literacy through systemic and school-wide professional learning (not focused on individual teachers).
- Utilize teacher-librarians help to strengthen classroom teacher effectiveness through lesson planning assistance, discovery of new classroom materials, and value-added expertise designed to maximize digital tools and resources.
- Collaborate with librarians to shape a dynamic 21st century learning environment and innovative methods for encouraging curiosity and closing the achievement gap.

### Action Area #4: Professional Learning
**PDE provides:**
- Certification statutes and regulations;
- Continuing Professional Education (Act 48 and Act 45); and
- Pennsylvania approved teacher induction programs.

**Recommendations to districts and charter schools:**
- Use Guiding Principles and Essential Elements of the PaSLP to inform development of the local literacy plan.
- Focus on emergent literacy and how it can be enhanced in early childhood programs and in homes.

- Continue development of instructional literacy skills (Pre-K – 12) to ensure a continuum of literacy achievement.

## Action Area #5: Leadership

**PDE provides:**

- State Literacy Leadership Team that serves as an advisory committee for the development of the PaSLP;
- Professional learning to support literacy leadership (PA Inspired Leadership);
- Instructional Coach Endorsement;
- Pennsylvania Institute of Instructional Coaching (PIIC);
- Director of Early Childhood Programs Credential;
- School Improvement Plan; and
- Office of Commonwealth Libraries (OCL).

**Recommendations to districts and charter schools:**

- Ensure a rigorous curriculum aligned to standards.
- Expand professional learning for administrators related to quality literacy curriculum, instruction, and assessment (recognizing and supporting quality literacy practices).
- Provide professional learning for teachers and other informal leaders in schools to build an understanding of the importance of schools as communities of learning.

## Action Area #6: Utilizing Partnerships

**PDE provides:**

- Resources for parents and other community agencies (available on PDE/SAS/OCDEL websites); and
- Partnerships between PDE, schools, parents, public libraries, businesses, and community agencies that support educational work.

**Recommendations to districts and charter schools:**

- Strengthen partnerships with higher education institutions, PDE, public libraries, and the business community.
- Strengthen partnerships with pre-schools and early childhood communities.
- Engage families or caregivers in literacy activities to promote literacy in the home setting. • Build knowledge and understanding of college and university faculty about components of the local literacy plan.
- Utilize the library system's programming such as Storytime learning, summer reading and activities, and extended hours past the regular school calendar.