Directions for using the Professional Learning Community on www.pdesas.org

Hello Transition Colleagues,

In recent years, Pennsylvania has utilized an exceptional online teacher resource—the Pennsylvania Department of Education Standards Aligned System (PDESAS) portal. It offers teachers, including early childhood practitioners, resources and materials in six elements that when linked together support student achievement. The six elements are standards, curriculum, assessments, instruction, materials and resources and safe and supportive schools.

The Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) facilitators of the PDII have created a learning community, or Forum, specifically designed for its attendees. The Transition Across Continuity Early Learning (or TACEL) framework, which includes materials, tools and other supplementary resources from the module, are posted on the SAS portal for easy access by Pennsylvania's educators. Participation in the learning community will allow educators to share experiences such as the implementation of the module, experimenting with applicable resources, and planned intentional home to school and school to home experiences.

Please find the Frequently Asked Questions about the PDESAS site and how the Forum can be used to benefit instructors, participants and other professionals with similar interest.

To access the Transition from Early Care to Formal School, visit <u>www.pdesas.org</u> and follow the directions.



Accessing the Transition from Early Care to Formal School Directions

If you are accessing the PDESAS website for the first time, then you will need to register. If you have already registered, then sign into the PDESAS website.







Select *Teacher Tools* from the top to find the option for *My Communities*.





Next, go to *My Communities*. You may select it from the top tab, or from the center of the web page. Either of these selections will take you to the same location.



Next, search for Transition Across Continuity Early Learning (or TACEL). When you receive the search results, click the Join button to join the community.



Within the *Transition Across the Continuum of Early Learning (TACEL)* you will be able to access all of the *Transition from Early Care to Formal School* resources including the Forum (blog). This is where you can share your thoughts and ideas about the *Transition from Early Care to Formal School Development* with your colleagues.

Feel free to explore other communities that may share similar interests in transition.

If you have any questions about the PDESAS portal please contact Christine Behm at <u>cbehm@pa.gov</u> Early Childhood Education Advisor, OCDEL or use the tools under **Frequently Asked Questions**



Frequently Asked Questions about PDESAS

- What is a Learning Community? A Learning Community provides users with the ability to communicate and collaborate with educators from across the Commonwealth via threaded discussion forums and blogs. A Learning Community may be comprised of educators who teach the same subject areas or grade levels, or may focus on a particular instructional strategy or professional interest.
- How do I locate and join a Learning Community? In the Teacher Tools section of PDESAS, click on *My Communities*. Enter a Keyword into the Keyword Search tool to search for a community, or click *Browse Communities, Forums, and Blogs* to see a list of all communities.
- My colleague said they sent me an email invitation to join a community, and I haven't received it. What should I do?

It sounds like the email may have not passed through a filter in your email system. Check your "Junk/SPAM Email" or "Bulk Email" folder to see if it was misdirected there. You can also go to the *My Navigator* tab in the *My Communities* section of PDESAS. You can view any invitations sent to you, within the right hand section labeled *Community Invitations*. Click the Accept button to join the community.

- I can't find a community I'd like to join. Is there a way to start a new community? Go to the *My Navigator* tab in the *My Communities* section of PDESAS. Click on the *Request New Community* button, and enter a suggested name and purpose for the new community. Click *submit* and the request will be sent to the appropriate administrators.
- Where do I go to set up a blog? A blog provides users with a way to share opinions and discuss various topics in the form of an online journal, in which readers may comment on entries. It can be created by going to the *My Website* section within *Teacher Tools*, and placing the My Blog page Online. Use the *Add Blog Entry* button on the *My Blog Entries* toolbar to begin posting information.
- A Community Member posted something that is inappropriate in a Forum. How can I report it?

Occasionally a user may post something that you or another user may find objectionable. We truly appreciate your assistance in making the Learning Communities a safe, welcoming place for educators! You will notice next to each post within a Forum, there is a button labeled *Inappropriate*. Click the *Inappropriate* button to report the posting. A window will open; enter any comments that you have, and then click the *Send* button. The posting will temporarily be removed from view while the Moderator makes a decision about the posting.

- I'd like to have a private conversation with a Member of my Community. Can I do that? There may be times where you wish to discuss information one-on-one, privately, instead of within a Community. Each Member in a Community has an avatar that appears on the Members tab, as well as next to any posting they make in a Forum. Click on the Member's Name to send them an email. A window will open; enter a Subject, and type the Body of your Email. Click the Send button.
- Someone posted something inappropriate to my blog. How can I delete their comments? If a user posts comments that you or another user may find objectionable, you can remove them from your blog. Users can only delete comments on their own blog. To the right of each comment in your blog, you will see two icons. Click the *Delete* icon (red X) to remove the comment from the blog entry.



• I want to share some materials that I created with members of my community. Is that possible?

In each Community there is an area called the *Digital Content Repository*. It is located on the Dashboard tab, and allows users to share resources with other members of the community. Click the *Manage Content* button, and then select the type of content you wish to share. Either enter a web address, or share items from your ePortfolio. Once the resources are added to the Repository, users can rate the resources, or make comments or notes regarding them.

