

Josh Sektnan, Ed.D.

Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Educational Leadership, Youngstown State University, 2023–2025

Master of Education in Literacy, Robert Morris University, 2018–2020

Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood and Special Education, Robert Morris University, 2012–2016

CERTIFICATIONS

PA Instructional II Early Childhood Education PK-4

PA Instructional II Special Education PK-8

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor of Education (Tenure-Track), Point Park University, 2026-Present

- Teach undergraduate education and special education courses, preparing future educators through engaging, evidence-based instruction and authentic classroom connections.
- Mentor teacher candidates by fostering reflective practice, inclusive teaching, and the confidence to positively impact every learner.
- Develop and pursue a research agenda centered on literacy instruction, teacher preparation, educational technology, and animal-assisted interventions in education.

Guest Lecturer / College Teaching, Westminster College and Robert Morris University, 2025

- Delivered invited lectures on themed learning environments, animal-assisted interventions in education, and technology integration to enhance student engagement and assessment.

Elementary Teacher, Seneca Valley School District, 2018–2026

- Taught Grades 2–4 General Education and Learning Support.
- Developed the Dr. S-West Airlines themed classroom model, fostering engagement and community.

- Assessed students using the Report of Student Progress (ROSP), maintaining accurate records to guide instruction and communicate growth.
- Served on the Inclusion and Belonging Building Committee, Phenomenon-Based Learning Committee, and Return to Brick-and-Mortar Post-Pandemic Committee.

Special Education Teacher, Provident Charter School, 2017–2018

- Created and implemented the Life Skills curriculum for Math and ELA.
- Provided intensive interventions, including Wilson Reading System, for students with Dyslexia and other language-based exceptionalities.

Special Education Teacher, Hancock County Public Schools, 2016–2017

- Designed and implemented individualized education programs for students with severe and profound exceptionalities.
- Utilized Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) strategies to support the strengths and needs of all learners.

WORK WITH PRE-SERVICE TEACHERS

Seneca Valley School District, 2021–2026

- Collaborated with field experience students, pre-student teachers, and student teachers from regional universities.
- Provided structured mentoring and reflective feedback using the Framework for Teaching (formerly the Danielson Framework).
- Modeled effective classroom management, differentiated instruction, and data-driven planning.
- Facilitated opportunities for candidates to observe, co-teach, and independently implement lessons aligned with state standards.
- Sought support and guidance from administrators and university/college supervisors to create clear and attainable goals for professional growth.

PUBLICATIONS

Sektnan, J., & Larwin, K. (2026). *Beyond one-size-fits-all: Rethinking spelling instruction in elementary grades. LEARNing Landscapes.*

Sektnan, J. (2025). *Not a One-Size-Fits-All Approach: Examining the Impact of Systematic K–6 Spelling Instruction* [Doctoral dissertation, Youngstown State University].

Sektnan, J. (2025). *Levi's Big Adventure: Becoming a Therapy Dog.* Independently published through Amazon KDP (ISBN B0FMS4QGH1).

PRESENTATIONS

Sektnan, J., Martinson, E., & Scanlon, A. (2026). *Evaluating EdTech that works: Research to results*. Presentation with Boddle Learning at ISTE Live 26, Orlando, FL.

Sektnan, J. (2025). *Themed learning environments, therapy dogs, and technology for engagement*. Invited guest lecture presented at Westminster College and Robert Morris University.

Sektnan, J. (2025). *Therapy dogs: Training a singleton pup into a certified therapy dog*. Presentation for the Fort Steuben Kennel Association.

Sektnan, J. (2025). *Therapy dogs*. Presentation for Girl Scouts.

Sektnan, J. (2024). *The impact of phenomenon-based learning (PedaNow)*. Presentation at frED Camp, Seneca Valley School District.

Sektnan, J. (2024). *Integrating structured spelling frameworks*. Professional Learning Community presentation, Seneca Valley School District.

Sektnan, J. (2024–2026). *Holocaust education and the Number the Stars project*. Presentations for Classrooms Without Borders, Poland, and fourth-grade classrooms, Seneca Valley School District.

TRAININGS

PedaNow (Phenomenon-Based Learning), Seneca Valley School District, 2023

AIMSweb Plus Training, Seneca Valley School District, 2018

LETRS Training, Seneca Valley School District, 2018

Multisensory Math Training with Marilyn Zecher, Provident Charter School, 2017

Wilson Reading System, Provident Charter School, 2017

Orton-Gillingham, Robert Morris University, 2016–2017

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Pennsylvania State Education Association (PSEA)

Alliance of Therapy Dogs (ATD)

Pittsburgh International Airport Pups Alleviating Worry & Stress (PIT PAWS)

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Therapy Dog Handler, Alliance of Therapy Dogs / PIT PAWS, 2023–Present

Provide animal-assisted support through therapy dog visits at Pittsburgh International Airport, schools, libraries, rehabilitation hospitals, senior living communities, and community events.

Community Education Sessions — literacy and family events at Ehrman Crest Elementary and children's reading program at Lynn Memorial Library (Chester, WV).

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & CULTURAL EDUCATION

Participated in a Holocaust education study program through Classrooms Without Borders, visiting Auschwitz, Treblinka, and additional historical sites in Poland. Developed classroom instructional materials centered on *Number the Stars*, shared professional learning with colleagues, and presented reflections to the Pittsburgh International Airport volunteer community.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Leading Volunteer Hours Recognition, Pittsburgh International Airport, 2023–2024 and 2024–2025