



**State Task Force
On the Right to Education
Wednesday, March 16, 2022, Minutes
10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

Mr. Focht, because of time restraints, called the meeting into order after the two presentations had concluded. The two presentations were on:

"Include Me" – The Arc – Nicole Turman and Sherri Landis - 10:15 – 11:00 am

"Funding Flow to Public School and Charter / Cyber Charter; IUs and PaTTANs" – Delmar Hart - 11:05 – 11:30 am. These presentation power points will be attached to the email of the March 16th minutes

- ❖ **Call to Order:** Keith H. Focht called the March 16th State Task Force Meeting to order at 11:25 am
- ❖ **Welcome:** Local Task Force Chairpersons & Vice Chairpersons and Members, Agencies, and Others were welcomed via ZOOM. The attendance were 51 participants with 5 meeting face-to-face. Mr. Focht shared the value of meeting face-to-face and will encourage his moving forward at the May 11th meeting (contingent upon the covid situation).
- ❖ **Old Business:** Mr. Keith Focht reference the below bulleted information items
 - January 12, 2022 - Minutes – were approved and will be sent via e-mail to Sharon Kennedy and will be posted on the STF Website.
 - STF Website Link was shared out to the membership: <https://www.pattan.net/about-us/partners/state-task-force/>
 - **Topic Points of Discussion and Presentations:**
Meeting and topics occurring for the remainder of the 2021-2022 School Year
 - Fiscal – PDE / BSE budget
 - Include Me
 - State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report session

- **Parent Satisfaction Survey Update (on Hold this year) - The two URLs listed below are:**

English URL Parent Satisfaction Survey Hyperlink –

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PaLTF19-20>

Spanish URL Parent Satisfaction Survey Hyperlink-

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LTF19-20S>

- **LTF Meeting: When Having Your Meetings Remember to:**

- Take attendance of members and others attending the meeting
- Have someone take minutes of the meeting and have the local IU submit this to corresponding STF member assigned to your area (see below).
- Send out your meeting information to your membership of those that attended and did not attend.
 - ✓ The Arc – STF Member be determined -1, 2, 3 ,4, 5, 6 ,7, 8, 9
 - ✓ Governor’s Advisory Council – no current IU Region.
 - ✓ Mr. Gary Smith is assigned to LTF – 12, 13, 14,15, 16, 17, 18 ,19 ,20, 21,
 - ✓ Mr. Keith Focht is assigned to LTF – 10 ,11, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29.

- **Want to Meet? –**

If you want a State Task Force member to attend a get-together or attend a Local Task Force meeting, please feel free to contact us:

- STF Consumer Representative from The Arc of Pennsylvania.
- TBD - Executive Director - Governor’s Cabinet and Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities.
- Gary Smith (smiga@pa.gov) The Office of Developmental Programs - (717) 346-1389
- Katie Yost (kyost@thearcpa.org)– Government and Advocacy Associate – The Arc of Pennsylvania – (717) 234-2621.
- Keith Focht (kfocht@pa.gov) – State Task Force Chairman – Bureau of Special Education - (717) 783-6921.

- **PA ABLE Savings Program - PA ABLE Savings Program**

The PA ABLE Savings Program through the PA treasury department is an exciting tax savings program that allows people with disabilities to save money while maintaining their benefits. They can save money while at the same time achieve more independence. The PA Able offers people with disabilities a new way to build financial security.

To access the PA website visit: <http://www.paable.gov>. To get an overview of the PA ABLE program visit: <http://www.paable.gov/overview/> This informational channel will continue to be posted in our minutes and shared out in our State Task Force Meetings.

Conferences for 2021- 2022 School Year -

The conferences were read by Mr. Keith Focht. Katie Yost from the Arc of PA and Gary Smith from ODP asked the conferences of their organizations also be included in the chart

Conference Title	Date	Location	Future Conference Dates
AAC Talks Web Conference	May 13, 2022	Virtual	May 12, 2023
PaTTAN Literacy Symposium	June 14-16, 2022	PaTTAN Harrisburg	TBD
Pennsylvania Deaf-Blind Project's Family Learning Conference	June 24-25, 2022	Hybrid/State College	TBD
National Autism Conference	August 1-4, 2022	Hybrid/State College	TBD
PA Community on Transition Conference	August 10-11, 2022	Virtual	TBD
HELIX: High Expectations for Low Incidence Disabilities	November 14-16, 2022	Hybrid/State College	TBD
The Arc of PA Advocacy and Policy Conference	June 6 th and 7 th , 2022	Virtual	TBD
Office of Developmental Programs Conference – Everyday Lives 2022 Virtual Conference	May 17 th - Communication and Connections; May 24 th – 25 th ; - Community of Practice for supporting Families; June 1 – Assistive Technology; June 8 th & 9 th – Dual Diagnosis; June 16 th - Employment	Virtual	

❖ New Business: State Task Force / Old Business

❖ Topic Points of Discussion and Presentations:

- Wednesday, May 11, 2022 - 10:00 am – 12:00 pm State Task Force Meeting: Topics will include:

- The Pennsylvania Bureau of Special Education provides a State Performance Plan / Annual Performance Report to the U.S Department of Education, the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) for review.
 - Assistive Technology
-

STATE TASK FORCE AGENCY REPORTS –

Mr. Keith Focht asked each STF agency present to share out their reports – see below

❖ The Office of Developmental Programs Update: Gary Smith

ODP NEWS

The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) distributes news via a weekly digest. MyODP News Online shares information about the work of ODP and individuals our work supports who are living the Everyday Life. Please visit MyODP News Online where you can find articles that have been published.

The digest is sent every Friday and contains the week's posted news in abstract. If you have information that you would like to share about ODP's work supporting people with disabilities, please use my contact information Smiga@pa.gov to submit it for consideration or readers may send inquiries and/or story ideas to ra-pwmyodp@pa.gov.

Forthcoming ODP Announcement: Opportunity for Certification for Cornell's Work Incentives Practitioner Credential (To build capacity to provide Benefits Counseling)

- No cost opportunity for providers to have staff person (s) participate in a virtual certification program with the goal of receiving a Work Incentives Practitioner Credential to provide Benefits Counseling services funded by the Consolidated, Community Living, or P/FDS waivers and Base Funding.
- Applications disseminated to field 3/11/22
- Application must be completed by April 1, 2022. Virtual class begins May 27, 2022.

Policy Amendments Waivers:

- Consolidated and Community Living Waivers - adding the capacity to serve children with medically complex conditions – proposed effective date is 4/1/22

Trainings: Currently working on

- (Formerly named Experience the Employment Connection- **EEC**) now named the PA Secondary Transition Connecting for Employment. Joint initiative is ODP, OVR and Bureau of Special Ed. collaborating with the goal of connecting systems with each other to increase employment outcomes for transition age youths.
- ODP along with OMHSAS and the Dept. of Labor will be presenting at the PWDA 38th Conference May 5, 2022. Theme: ***Competitive Integrated Employment Through Empowerment***- An overview of the programs available from DHS that support Individuals with disabilities to obtain and maintain competitive integrated employment. In addition to highlighting resources on the benefits of hiring people with disabilities.

Data:

- As of January 2022, 17% of working-aged people (ages 16-64) enrolled with ODP are employed in competitive integrated employment.

- Pre-pandemic: **January 2020** 17% ---- **January 2021** 14% --- **January 2022** 17%
If you are not part of ODP's listserv, here is the link to subscribe:
<http://listserv.dpw.state.pa.us/Scripts/wa.exe.?SUBED1=o-supporting-families-cop&A=1>

If you have any additional questions concerning these updates, please contact Gary Smith or Laura Cipriani at smiga@pa.gov or lcipriani@pa.gov

❖ **The Department of Education/Bureau of Special Education Update: Keith H. Focht**

PDE Conference

The annual Pennsylvania Department of Education Conference, *Making a Difference: Educational Practices That Work*, was held March 2-4, 2022. Over 1200 individuals attended the hybrid conference – 700+ in person and 400+.

virtually. Over 30 nationally renowned speakers presented on a wide variety of topics – from practical strategies that can be used in the classroom, to how to attract, prepare and retain personnel to the field of special education. An exhibit hall featured over 50 vendors, and a poster session included over 30 presentations by LEA personnel. Next year's PDE Conference will be held March 1-3, 2023.

Developing Future Special Educators Grant Opportunity

BSE is offering a grant opportunity for Attract, Prepare, Retain. On March 21, 2022, from 3:00-4:00 there will be an overview webinar for LEAs, including approved private schools, career technical education centers, charter school, cyber charter schools, intermediate units, and school districts interested in inspiring the next generation of special educators. Register for the overview webinar with the following link:

<https://pattanpgh.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAqf-CpqDkuGtYL60wIAexuQaYm-aTfsvFr>

The webinar will also be recorded and posted on the APR Repository—Attracting Special Education Personnel webpage. [APR Repository, Attracting Special Education Personnel webpage](#)

Additional questions can be directed to Christine Moon, PaTTAN Educational Consultant, at cmoon@pattanpgh.net.

BSE Bulletin for Educators

The bulletin will provide monthly updates from the Pennsylvania Bureau of Special Education and PaTTAN. Subscribe at <https://www.pattan.net/Publications/BSE-Bulletin>

March is Brain Injury Awareness Month

For additional information on brain injury and resources visit the Brain Injury Association of PA at <https://biapa.org/>.

PaTTAN Publications

At PaTTAN, our goal is to provide educators with a breadth of publications that are grounded in proven best practices and a deep research base, reflecting a commitment to school improvement. PaTTAN offers publications on a variety of topics, all focused on improving educational results for students with and without disabilities.

Whether you are just starting out in the field of education, or you want to improve upon the work you and your team are already doing, let PaTTAN support you with the expertise of our educational consultants.

Pennsylvania educators, school administrators, and families can view, download, and order PaTTAN publications mailed to their school or home. publications@pattankop.net

Indicator 14 Announcement

Pennsylvania Post School Outcome Survey (PaPOS)

Performance Plan, states are required to develop a six-year plan to measure their work towards federally identified Indicators of compliance and performance, designed to improve the education of students with disabilities.

Indicator 14 is one of the 20 State Performance Plan (SPP) Indicators, and focuses on the secondary transition mandate by which each state is to determine, for the state as a whole, the extent to which students are achieving transition outcomes on year after exiting high school as stated in their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) (Indicator 14).

To meet this federal reporting requirement, once over a five-year period, each local education agency (LEA) is required to survey all student leavers (graduates, dropouts and students who age out) who had IEPs. The

Pennsylvania Post-School Outcome Surveys (PaPOS) will be used to gather this data. The random sampling process used to assign each Local Education Agency (LEA) to one of the five years in each cycle ensures that the LEAs selected each year will be representative of the state as a whole with regard to district size, disability category, ethnicity, LRE status, gender and exiting status.

Local Education Agency 2021-2022

103020603	Allegheny Valley SD
108070502	Altoona Area SD
127040703	Ambridge Area SD
117080503	Athens Area SD
109530304	Austin Area SD
103020753	Avonworth SD
108561003	Berlin Brothersvalley SD
115210503	Big Spring SD
109420803	Bradford Area SD
122091352	Bristol Township SD
106330703	Brockway Area SD
107650703	Burrell SD
117081003	Canton Area SD
103021603	Carlynton SD
122092102	Central Bucks SD
127042003	Central Valley SD
101631803	Charleroi SD
123461302	Cheltenham Township SD
125231303	Chichester SD
102020001	City CHS
103021903	Clairton City SD
108071504	Claysburg-Kimmel SD
124151902	Coatesville Area SD
101261302	Connellsville Area SD
103022103	Cornell SD
105251453	Corry Area SD
106611303	Cranberry Area SD
107651603	Derry Area SD
120483302	Easton Area SD
114062003	Exeter Township SD
111292304	Forbes Road SD
119583003	Forest City Regional SD
103023912	Fox Chapel Area SD
103024102	Gateway SD

105253903	General Mclane SD
110173003	Glendale SD
115222504	Halifax Area SD
103024603	Hampton Township SD
118403003	Hanover Area SD
105254353	Harbor Creek SD
115222752	Harrisburg City SD
103024753	Highlands SD
128323303	Homer-Center SD
127044103	Hopewell Area SD
101303503	Jefferson-Morgan SD
109243503	Johnsonburg Area SD
111312804	Juniata Valley SD
113362940	La Academia: The Partnership CS
104433903	Lakeview SD
113363603	Lampeter-Strasburg SD
113364002	Lancaster SD
113384603	Lebanon SD
117414203	Loyalsock Township SD

113364403	Manheim Central SD
128325203	Marion Center Area SD
125235502	Marple Newtown SD
126510002	Mastery Charter High School
104435003	Mercer Area SD
123465303	Methacton SD
108565203	Meyersdale Area SD
115226103	Millersburg Area SD
129544703	Minersville Area SD
103026303	Montour SD
104375302	New Castle Area SD
107656303	New Kensington-Arnold SD
108565503	North Star SD
112674403	Northeastern York SD
113385003	Northern Lebanon SD
118406003	Northwest Area SD
107656502	Norwin SD
121136503	Palmerton Area SD
108116003	Penn Cambria SD
113365203	Penn Manor SD

122098103	Pennridge SD
107657103	Penn-Trafford SD
105250001	Perseus House CS of Excellence
101636503	Peters Township SD
110177003	Philipsburg-Osceola Area SD
120455203	Pleasant Valley SD
120455403	Pocono Mountain SD
123466403	Pottstown SD
112675503	Red Lion Area SD
104435303	Reynolds SD
119357003	Riverside SD
114067503	Schuylkill Valley SD
116557103	Selinsgrove Area SD
116496603	Shikellamy SD
123467103	Souderton Area SD
112676203	South Eastern SD
115218303	South Middleton SD
127047404	South Side Area SD
116197503	Southern Columbia Area SD
108077503	Spring Cove SD
120456003	Stroudsburg Area SD
115228303	Susquehanna Township SD

115506003 Susquenita SD
129547603 Tamaqua Area SD
124157802 Tredyffrin-Easttown SD
106169003 Union SD
112289003 Waynesboro Area SD
121397803 Whitehall-Coplay SD
118409203 Wyoming Area SD
112679403 York Suburban SD
126512870 Youth Build Philadelphia CS

Targeted Philadelphia SD

Creative and Performing Arts

Edison HS/Fareira Skills

Lankenau HS

Motivation HS

Overbrook HS

<https://www.pattan.net/Graduation-Post-Secondary-Outcomes/Educational-Initiatives/Post-School-Outcomes>

❖ **The Arc of Pennsylvania Update: – via Katie Yost**

Governor Wolf's Proposed PA State Budget 2022-2023

On February 8th, Governor Tom Wolf unveiled his final proposed budget as governor. He has proposed a 1.75 billion increase towards education. That includes:

\$1.5 billion for Basic Education

\$200 million for Special Education

Legislative Update – PA General Assembly

House Bill 85

This bill would require our post-secondary colleges to adopt policies that would allow existing documentation in the IEP, 504 Plan or a record of disability from another institution of higher education, or documentation from the military to be accepted as a proof of a disability. House Bill 85 remains in the House Education Committee.

House Bill 250

This bill expresses the desire of its sponsors that the Department of Education create curriculum for Health Classes that will provide a framework for positive discussion and increased understanding. House bill 250 remains in the House Education Committee.

House Bill 272

This bill proposes to address the following issues related to Pennsylvania's Charter School Law:

- Right to know
- Protecting your property tax dollars
- Protecting the future of our kids

House Bill 272 remains in the House Education Committee.

House Bill 365

House Bill 365 would update language in the PA School Code to remove derogatory language in referencing to students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. House Bill 365 was voted favorably out of the Senate Education Committee and is eligible to be brought before the full senate for a vote.

House Bill 458

This Legislation is designed to provide that, in the event of a residency dispute between school districts, a school district would not be permitted to remove a child from school until the dispute has been fully resolved and it has been determined which school district should correctly enroll the child.

House Bill 458 remains in the House Education Committee.

House Bill 540

House Bill 540 would implement the Special Education Funding Commission's recommendation to "apply the same funding principles used in the formula for school districts to determine a school district's payment for a special education student enrolled in a charter or cyber charter school....".

Senate Bill 542

Senate Bill 542 would remove the across-the-board assumption of a 16% special education population rate per school district to using the school district's actual percentage of special education population.

Senate Bill 542 remains in the House Education Committee.

HB 1335

House Bill 1335 would require sexual education be taught to all students and be in a manner that students at all comprehension levels can understand.

House Bill 1335 remains in the House Education Committee.

House Bill 1749

House Bill 1749 would implement the bipartisan 2013 Special Education Funding Commission's recommendation for applying the same education funding principles used to distribute state special education funding to school districts, in the calculation used to determine a school district's tuition payment for a special education student enrolled in a charter school.

House Bill 1749 remains in the House Education Committee.

House Bill 726

This bill would create an early literacy pilot program. Beginning in the 2021-22 school year (if enacted), the PA Department of Education will work with willing school districts to address student reading needs. This program will focus on the "science of reading" which is an evidence-based reading instructional practice that integrates listening, speaking, reading, spelling, and writing.

House Bill 726 remains in the House Education Committee.

The House Education Committee held an informational hearing on the bill on February 10, 2022.

House Resolution 138

On August 5, 2021, Representative Karen Boback, posted a memorandum to all House members regarding her plan to introduce a resolution directing the Joint State Government Commission to study special education lawsuits in the Commonwealth. The study will examine the Office for Dispute Resolution.

House Resolution 138 remains in the House Education Committee.

House Bill 2180

On January 27, 2022, Representative Dan Miller and Representative Melissa Shusterman introduced a bill that tasks school districts across the Commonwealth to produce a report on an annual basis indicating the level of inclusion of their students who access special education services in their extracurricular activities. House Bill 2180 was referred to the House Education Committee.

House Bill 2022

On March 9, 2022, Representative Aaron Kaufer introduced a bill that would amend the public-school code to allow a public school to place a behavioral health representative in a school who may communicate and interact with students to provide social and mental health support assistance. House Bill 2022 was referred to the House Education Committee.

Senate Resolution 235

On March 3, 2022, Senator Christine Tartaglione introduced a resolution marking March 2022 as Disability Awareness Month in Pennsylvania. Senate Resolution 235 was introduced to the Senate Rules and Executive Nominations Committee.

❖ **The Governor's Office Update: None currently.**

❖ **Presentation:** Wednesday, March 16th, 2022 - 10:00 am – 12:00 pm –

"Include Me" – The Arc – Nicole Turman and Sherri Landis - 10:15 – 11:00 am

"Funding Flow to public school and Charter / Cyber Charter; IUs and PaTTANs" – Delmar Hart - 11:05 – 11:30 am

❖ **Systemic Concerns Reported:**

Mr. Focht shared there were no systemic concerns reported to the STF - **None**

❖ **Future State Task Force Dates and Presentations**

- **Wednesday, September 21, 2022 -10:00 am – 12:00 pm – TBD**
- **Wednesday, November 2, 2022 - 10:00 am – 12:00 pm- TBD**
- **Wednesday, January 11, 2023 – 10:00 am – 12:00 pm - TBD**
- **Wednesday, March 15, 2023 – 10:00 am – 12:00 pm - TBD**
- **Wednesday, May 10, 2023 – 10:00 am – 12:00 pm - TBD**

****Note: Topic Survey will be sent out to the LTF members to determine trainings and presentations the LTF members wish to have for the 2022-2023 school year.****

❖ **This Year's State Task Force Meetings – (Subject to change)**

- **Wednesday, May 11, 2022, Hybrid (face -to-face & Virtual)**

❖ **Local Task Force Sharing Time –**

Mr. Keith Focht shared elections for the Local Task Force – per guidance from The Right to Education State Task Force Handbook 5.3 shared they should take place before June 30th of the current year. Further guidance of LTF Elections below:

5.3 Elections:

- **5.3.2** The Election meeting is to be announced and advertised to members.

- 5.3.3 Nominations are to be submitted by the call of the Chair and Vice-Chair, from the floor, at the meeting.
- 5.3.4 A second to each nomination is required.
- 5.3.5 The candidate should be present and accept the nomination.
- 5.3.6 The voting can occur by voice vote or paper ballot by membership as defined in Section 5.1.1(2).
- 5.3.7 A simple majority of those present will be declared the winner of the Chair and Vice-Chair office.

Mr. Focht will also share out a soft Robert's Rule's Process and narrative of the Election Process

- ❖ **Next State Task Force on the Right to Education Meeting – May 11, 2022 - Hybrid**
- ❖ **Adjournment: Motion for Adjournment made by – Katie Yost ; seconded by – Keith Focht**