



**State Task Force
On the Right to Education
Wednesday, May 11, 2022, Agenda
10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://csiu.zoom.us/j/99194134883>

Meeting ID: 991 9413 4883
One tap mobile

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+16468769923,,99194134883# US (New York)

- ❖ **Call to Order:** Keith H. Focht called the meeting to order. Two of the three State Task Force members were in attendance. It was later determined Gary Smith, the ODP representative, was on for a brief moment until his internet network went offline.
 - ❖ **Welcome:** Keith asked all of the Local Task Force Chairpersons & Vice Chairpersons and Members, Agencies, and Others via ZOOM and PaTTAN satellite sites to introduce themselves. There were 71 in attendance.
 - ❖ Keith Focht shared with the group, because of having two speakers at today's meeting, the STF will have them present first before going over the remaining agenda. The timeslots for the presenters are:
 - ✓ 10:15 am - "Inclusion" - Lisa Russo <lrusso@pattankop.net
 - ✓ 10:55 - "Measuring and Improving Special Education: State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/ARP) Stakeholder Engagement Session" – Barbara Mozina and John Cica – Asking advocates and families to learn more about how special education services are reviewed in the Commonwealth.
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❖ Old Business:

- **March 16, 2022 - Minutes** - sent via e-mail. Keith asked for a motion to accept the March 16th State Task Force minutes. The motion to accept the march minutes was made by Katie Yost and seconded by Keith Focht. These minutes will be posted by Sharon Kennedy onto the STF website.
- Keith Focht also shared out to the membership the standard information the STF lists on the STF Agenda for those interested . These are bulleted bellow.
- STF Website Link: <https://www.pattan.net/about-us/partners/state-task-force/> - Keith
- 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 Meeting.

The State Task Force members then moved onto the discussion of the conferences listed below.

Conferences for 2021- 2022 School Year

Conference Title	Date	Location	Future Conference Dates
AAC Talks Web Conference	May 13, 2022	Virtual	May 12, 2023
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	
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	July 31 st – August 3 rd 2023
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;	Virtual	

Conference Title	Date	Location	Future Conference Dates
	June 8 th & 9 th – Dual Diagnosis; June 16 th - Employment		

❖ **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:
 - “Measuring and Improving Special Education: State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP?ARP) Stakeholder Engagement Session” – Barbara Mozina and John Cica – Asking advocates and families to learn more about how special education services are reviewed in the Commonwealth
 - “Inclusion” - Lisa Russo <lrusso@pattankop.net

STATE TASK FORCE AGENCY REPORTS

❖ **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

Augmentative and Alternative Communication – (AAC) Conference –

Registration Deadline – May 11, 2022.

This is a web conference designed to provide practical ideas, strategies, and resources for making connections and engaging students with complex communication needs. This year's theme, the power of language, is meant to inspire participants to consider creative solutions and new ways of thinking about AT implementation that promotes the *development of language and* literacy for empowering our students who use augmentative-alternative communication systems. National and local presenters will discuss a variety of topics including ways to engage learners with complex communication needs, starting points for collecting data on students' progress, specific strategies to go beyond requesting, techniques to incorporate into everyday communicative contexts, and how to customize displays to support the student's AAC use, and their access to the device.

Registration [Link https://www.pattan.net/Events/Conferences/Course-3058/Events/Session-36848](https://www.pattan.net/Events/Conferences/Course-3058/Events/Session-36848)

Office Of Special Education Programs (OSEP) – Policy Letter on English Language Learners –

This policy letter address best practice for developing IEPs. Discussion points reflect on if language development goals, including a student's English language proficiency level scores, can be documented in an IEP. Also discussed in this letter is LEAs requirement per dual certification of the teacher in the Education and English Language Learners format.

<https://sites.ed.gov/idea/idea-files/policy-letter-november-15-2021-to-boals/>

BSE Bulletin for Educators

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

PaTTAN Publications

At PaTTAN, their 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.

- **The Path to Graduation (P2G)** provides intensive, ongoing professional development and coaching using evidenced-based instructional and adult learning practices that build the capacity of schools to address the academic and behavioral needs of middle school students with disabilities, in particular, students identified with emotional disturbance.
P2G builds local educational agencies' (LEAs') capacity to support middle school students identified as having emotional behavioral disorders (EBD) in achieving high school graduation.
P2G 3 Evidence – Based Intervention
- **Strategic Instruction Model (SIM)** (<http://sim.kucrl.org/>) is a comprehensive, evidenced based adolescent literacy program. SIM emphasizes training routines that allow teachers to organize and present curriculum content in a way that is easy for students to understand and remember. Click here to learn more: <https://sim.ku.edu/mission-and-goals>
- **Check & Connect** is an intervention used for K-12 students who show warning signs of disengagement with school and who are at risk of dropping out. Check & Connect essentially is a trusting relationship between a student and a caring, trained mentor who both advocates for and challenges the student. Click here to learn more [Check & Connect Video](#)
- **Transition Discoveries** (Transitiondiscoveries.org) is a website focused on youth voice and empowerment providing tools and resources for youth and families to take a leadership role in transition planning. Through collaboration, young people, families, and the stakeholders who support them work together to form successful practices for transition to life after high school. To learn more about the **Transition Discoveries Framework** - <https://www.transitiondiscoveries.org/our-framework>

May Better Speech and Hearing Month

May is Better Speech and Hearing Month is observed each year to increase awareness about communication disorders and hearing health. Founded by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), this month also provides an opportunity to honor the roles of ASHA members in providing treatment to those affected by speech and hearing disorders.

COVID Compensatory Services

BSE continued to strongly emphasize the need to ensure students with disabilities are made whole if there was a lack of FAPE during the pandemic. CCS process is a way to determine the type and amount of services in a proactive manner. If LEAs are having difficulty providing services due to staffing needs, there is nothing prohibiting an LEA from making Comp Ed through the banking of hours of services for parents to use prior to age 21 of their child or any other agreed upon timeline.

❖ 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 2169

This legislation is designed to set up a tuition voucher program that parents could access from their local school district to pay for their child to go to another school or the purchasing of supplies or tutoring support.

House Bill 2169 was voted out of the House of Representatives in a vote of 104-98. It has not been referred to the Senate 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 amended out of committee. The new language is a gut and replace that will establish a pilot grant program for school districts to apply for funding to expanding mental health and supports and services for their students.

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

The Governor's Office Update: None currently

Systemic Concerns Reported: 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 – Last meeting of the school year

- Wednesday, May 11, 2022-
 - ✓ "Measuring and Improving Special Education: State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/ARP) Stakeholder Engagement Session" – Barbara Mozina and John Cica – Asking advocates and families to learn more about how special education services are reviewed in the Commonwealth

- ✓ "Inclusion" - Lisa Russo <lrusso@pattankop.net

****If you have a specific topic to which you want us to address next year during the State Task Force Meeting, let me know the topic and we will make a list and rank them by membership requested tallies.****

❖ Local Task Force Sharing Time –

- There were some talking points in reference on how to run the elections that are to occur now until July 31st. Keith Focht asked for the LTFs to get the newly elected Chairs / Vice-Chairs or Co-Chairs information such as name, emails and phone numbers and the dates and times of the scheduled meeting for next year.
- There were also discussion points on the Local Task Force meetings and who should run them to project the meetings are parent directed versus IU directed. There was further discussion on the reasons why IU provide the support via guidance from the PARC decree.
- An additional topic was the asking of some LTFs to have the STF set up a group Zoom meeting this summer with LTFs that have had great success with membership. Keith Focht shared he would set this up.

❖ Next State Task Force on the Right to Education Meeting – Wednesday, September 21st, 2022 – Hybrid - Topic to be determined

****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.****



Adjournment: Motion for Adjournment made by: Keith Focht