



Right to Education State Task Force Minutes

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Zoomlink: <https://csiu.zoom.us/j/99194134883>

Meeting ID: 991 9413 4883

One tap mobile

+13126266799,99194134883# US (Chicago)

+16468769923,99194134883# US (New York)

- ❖ **Call to Order:** Keith H. Focht
- ❖ **Welcome:** Local Task Force Chairpersons & Vice Chairpersons and Members, Agencies, and Others via ZOOM – Mr. Focht asked all to introduce themselves at the start of the meeting. There were 48 participants who attended this September 20th State Task Force meeting.
- ❖ **Old Business:**
 - May 10th, 2023, Minutes - sent via e-mail and will be posted on the STF Website pending STF Member approval, review, motion to accept and approve – Jessica Capitani; seconded by Keith H. Focht.
 - STF Website Link: <https://www.pattan.net/about-us/partners/state-task-force/>
 - Topic Points of Discussion and Presentations:
 - Wednesday, September 20, 2023 -10:00 am – Guest Speakers –M. Focht shared out to the group who was presenting and when this would occur during the STF Meeting.

- **Barbara Mozina -SPP-ARP –**
requests could not attend the September 2023 State Task Force and will be extended the opportunity to present at the November 8th meeting.
- **McKinley Rouse – PADDC – RFA (Request for Application) –** McKinley Rouse, a staff Member, who works for the Pennsylvania Department of Developmental Programs. McKinley shares information and power point on
- **Carole Clancy, Ed. D. – Director - Bureau of Special Education –**
Welcome and Message – 11:30 am Dr, Clancey welcomed.

Parent Satisfaction Survey Update - The two URLs listed below are:

English URL Parent Satisfaction Survey Hyperlink –

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/22-23LTF-Parent>

Spanish URL Parent Satisfaction Survey Hyperlink-

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/22-23ParentEsp>

Mr. Focht shared the BSE has provided the greenlight to reactivate this site for the 2023-2024 school year. This should happen shortly.

LTF Meeting: When Having Your Meetings Remember to:

- Take attendance of members and others attending the meeting - Mr. Focht shared the importance of taking roll of members and guest as in June and July elections take place and only members can vote for new Chairs and Vice-chairs.
- 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.
- ✓ Mrs. Jessica Capitani is assigned to LTF —1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 ,7, 8, 9,
- ✓ 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:

- Jessica Capitani - (cadenrox@verizon.net) The Arc of Pennsylvania – (540) 539-6671.
 - Gary Smith (smiga@pa.gov) The Office of Developmental Programs - (717) 934-4948
 - Emma Nolan (enolan@thearcpcpa.org)- the new Arc of Pennsylvania liaison to work with the STF - 717-234-2621 ext. 116.
 - Keith Focht (kfocht@pa.gov) – State Task Force Chairperson – Bureau of Special Education - (717) 783-6921 or work cell (717) 982-4423.
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Mr. Focht shared he will be reaching out to the intermediate units and LTF Chairs to try to increase memberships at each local level.

PA ABLE Savings Program - PA ABLE Savings Program

A PA ABLE Savings Program account gives individuals with qualified disabilities (Eligible Individuals), and their families and friends a tax-free way to save for a wide range of disability-related expenses while maintaining government benefits. The state and federal tax-free investment options are offered to encourage Eligible Individuals and their families to save private funds to support health, independence, and quality of life. To help you learn about the important features and benefits of PA ABLE, the Pennsylvania Treasury Department is hosting free webinars. Some of the topics that will be discussed include eligibility requirements for opening a PA ABLE account, the federal and state tax benefits of PA ABLE, and how PA ABLE account interacts with current benefits.

<https://www.paable.gov/lib/pdf/PAABLE-IRS-Regulation-Booklet.pdf>

<https://paable.gov/overview/>

Conferences

Conference are hyperlinked to the conference registration page of each conference. However, there are some conferences that have not been formally scheduled yet and maybe listed as "Save the Date" or To Be Determined (TBD)

Conference Title	Date / Location	In-person / Virtual / hybrid
Integrated PAPBS Network and MTSS Conference Implementers' Forum	November 1-3, 2023,	Hershey Lodge and Convention Center
CASE National Conference	November 8-10, 2023	David Lawrence Convention Center, Pittsburgh PA
Helix: High Expectations for Low Incidence Disabilities	November 15 – 17, 2023	Hybrid/Lancaster Convention Center
PaTTAN Literacy Symposium	TBD	Virtual
Hune Conferencia Annual de Jovenes	TBD	Virtual
Math Conference	TBD	Virtual
PDE Computer Science for ALL - PA Summit (#CSForALLPA)	TBD	Hybrid/PaTTAN Central (Harrisburg)
Pennsylvania Deaf-Blind Project's Family Learning Conference	TBD	Hybrid/State College
National Autism Conference	August 5-8, 2024	Hybrid/State College

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PaTTAN Literacy Symposium	TBD	Virtual
PA Community of Practice Transition Conference	TBD	Hybrid/State College
2024 National Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE) Conference	June 17-20, 2024	Charolotte, N.C.
2024 Pennsylvania Department of Education Conference	February 28 - March 1 st , 2024	Hybrid – Hershey Lodge and Convention Center
Special Education Leadership Academy	July 2024	Wyndham Gettysburg
The Arc's National Convention	November 6-8, 2023	New Orleans, LA

❖ **New Business: State Task Force –**

STATE TASK FORCE AGENCY REPORTS

❖ **Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) Update- Provided by Gary Smith, ODP Statewide Employment Lead, DHS State Task Force Representative –**

Gary Smith had a previous work-related duty and could not attend the STF on Wednesday, September 20, 2023. Mr. Focht read his report and shared if here were any questions pertaining to this report to email him or email Gary Smith directly in order to have the questions answered.

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.

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.
- Main goal is to build provider capacity to educate individuals and families on the advantages of utilizing the Benefits Counseling service to help break down barriers associated with losing benefits when a person gets a job.
- Two cohort learner groups of 25 each- (50 total for the program)
- As of January 2023- 8 certified, 34 with provisional certification and 8 taking the exam.

Policy Amendments Waivers:

- Waiver renewals for Consolidated and Community Living, P/FDS and Autism waivers were approved by CMS in January 2023 and an announcement has been published in MyODP

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. Held a kickoff event at the Secondary Transition Pre-Conference (**by invite only**). The event pulled together local teams with representatives from intermediate units, OVR, county intellectual disability agencies and supports coordination agencies. The event premiered a connecting **#(hashtag)** connecting4employment video training series and a secondary Transition Roadmap. Local teams were given time for action planning. A regional follow-up event was held in October of 2022 (virtually). Targeted outreach was done with teams that needed technical assistance from the state team. Three more regional events have taken place in March 2023. An in-person event will be held again at the Secondary Transition Pre-Conference in the summer of 2023.
- **Employer Engagement Regional Forums-** In person regional forum to provide a platform for networking, sharing resources and learning best practices to employment leaders on how to utilize tools and proven strategies on engaging prospective employers on the benefits of hiring people with an intellectual disability and/or autism.

- **Two forums at PaTTAN sites. One in the central (4/25) and one in the eastern regions 5/4. The last symposiums to be held at Bucks County Community College 5/12 (se/ne regions combined)**
- **By invite only- Representatives from the Intermediate Units, County ID programs, OVR district offices and providers enrolled with ODP to provide employment -related services, including Community Participation vocational services and other stakeholders.**
- **Presentations will be recorded and posted for others to view once all of the symposiums have been completed.**

Data:

- As of March 2023, 18% (7929) of working-aged people (ages 18-64) enrolled with ODP are employed in competitive integrated employment.
- Pre-pandemic: **January 2020** 17% ---- **January 2021** 14% --- **January – September 2022** 17% --- November 2022 (7786) - March 2023 (7929) added 143 new jobs
- ODP Annual Comprehensive Employment Report is available on MyODP.com.

If you are not part of ODP’s listserv, here is the link to subscribe:

<https://home.myodp.org/resources/subscribe-to-odp-listservs/>

If you have any additional questions concerning these updates, please contact Gary Smith or Lisa Rudawski at smiga@pa.gov or lrudawski@pa.gov

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

Mr. Focht spent some time to open the PaTTAN Pod site to show the many videos that are showed and could be used as an overview or presentations the LTF could utilized to show to their members. (Please note the clarity of the PaTTAN Pod, is much clearer than what was shared with our sound system).

PaTTAN Pod - [PaTTANPod](#)

BSE and PaTTAN - The Essential 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>

Highlights of April

Tools for Teachers

- How to Help Children Learn How to Manage BIG Emotions
- 5 Steps for Creating a Mindfulness Corner in Your classroom.

News Corner

- Unified Bocce Transcends Sports BSE
- Carle Clancy Visits Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf

Timely Opportunities

- 20,000 Grant Funding for School Psychologist - to pay out-of-state School Psychologist Interns to do their internship in PA.

- Registration Open: 2023 PaTTAN Math Conference

Resources

- New LRE Calculation Training Videos (2)
- PASA Support for Teachers
- School Counselor's resources – Attracting, Preparing and Retaining Information to encourage student to go into the teaching profession. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6tc4PLRo1VQ>

Highlights of May

Tools for Teachers

- 3 activities to Do Before Testing Students
 - Take the test yourself.
 - Look at the types of questions.
 - Let the students develop the test review.
- Listen to the Podcast – Disrupt Your Vulnerable Decisions with These Simple Solutions
 - Delay – Pause your decision until you can think more clearly.
 - Reframe – Think about the situation from another perspective.
 - Self-management – Take care of yourself in the moment before responding.
- 9 Tips for Teaching an Extended School Year (ESY) Program
 - Obtain Student Documents
 - Schedule time for Observation (if possible)
 - Communicate with Paraeducators
 - Teach through Learning Centers
 - Clarify the Roles of the Paraeducators
 - Ensure Lesson Plans are Goal-Based
 - Incorporate Clear Routines
 - Provide Social Interactions and Physical Movement
 - Collect Data

News You Can Use

- West View Elementary Student Explore Coding with Innovative tool. This tool was also used to teach computer programming to students who are blind or visually impaired.

Timely Opportunities

- **Safe and Supportive Learning Environments: *Preventions Before the Crisis*** [Registration](#) Opening Soon for This Two-Day Event !! August 1-17, 2023. PaTTAN – Harrisburg.
- **2023 Summer Inclusive Institute's Virtual Includi-Con** – <https://thearcpa.org/includicon/>
The Arc of PA has put together a program of excellent speakers to help us remember our “why” to for positive pathways for students and ourselves, to learn new strategies and to expand our circles of connection with others who embrace inclusive events!! This is a three-day event.
- **Learning About the Framework for Access and Belonging (FAB)** Process should be considered. The FAB Process consists of 3 phases: Planning, Teaming, and Monitoring, all of which are guided by a trained facilitator. The FAB Process is an enhancement to the former Supplementary Aides and Services Toolkit. Revisions were made to improve efficiency, to

expand alignment with the Universal Design for Learning Framework, and to include data collection to ensure the student's action plan is working. [SAS – FAB](#)

The Grab and Go Series - [Leadership Series](#) -

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLCkBP2csbOstt8srzRLe5C1FuHt_axHJ8

The Grab and Go Series consists of recorded videos, all under 10 minutes in length, designed to provide special education leaders with a succinct synopsis of the mandatory reporting requirements completed through the PA Department of Education (PDE) and Leader Services portals. Leaders and those who hold the responsibility for special education reporting in local education agencies can access the following reporting videos online at any time:

- Act 16 Reporting
- Approved Private School (APS) 4010 & 4011 Reporting
- Comprehensive Plan Reporting
- Contingency Fund Reporting
- Homebound Instruction & Instruction Conducted in the Home Reporting
- Restraint Information System Collection (RISC) Reporting
- Special Education Plan Reporting
- Special Education Students at Home (SES) Reporting

National Teacher Appreciation Week – Do / Say something nice to your child's teacher!!!

Statewide Assessment: PSSA

Assessment	Dates	Grades
English Language Arts	April 22 - 26, 2024	Grades 3-8
Mathematics, Science and Make-ups	April 29 - May 3, 2024	Grades 3-8
Early Reporting Deadline	May 3, 2024	Grades 3-8
PSSA Math, Science, Makeups (Optional)	May 6 - 10, 2024 (No early reporting)	Grades 3-8

Assessment	Dates	Grades
English Language Arts	April 21 - 25, 2025	Grades 3-8
Mathematics, Science and Make-ups	April 28 - May 2, 2025	Grades 3-8
Early Reporting Deadline	May 2, 2025	Grades 3-8

PSSA Math, Science, Makeups (Optional)	May 5 - 9, 2025 (No early reporting)	Grades 3-8
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Assessment	Dates	Grades
English Language Arts	April 20 - 24, 2026	Grades 3-8
Mathematics, Science and Make-ups	April 27 - May 1, 2026	Grades 3-8
Early Reporting Deadline	May 1, 2026	Grades 3-8
PSSA Math, Science, Makeups (Optional)	May 4 - 8, 2026 (No early reporting)	Grades 3-8

Statewide Assessments: Keystones

Keystone Testing Schedule

Winter Keystone Exams (December 2023)

For High School Retesters only.

- Keystone Algebra, Modules 1 & 2 – December 12
- Keystone Biology, Modules 1 & 2 – December 13
- Keystone Literature, Modules 1 & 2 – December 14

Spring Keystone Exams (2024) - Middle School Algebra Exam

All MS students currently enrolled in Algebra I must take this test.

- Keystone Algebra, Module 1 – May 21, 2024, morning
- Keystone Algebra, Module 2 – May 22, 2024, morning

Spring Keystone Exams (2024) - High School Keystone Exams

Keystone Algebra

- For HS students currently enrolled in Algebra I or who need to retest
 - May 15, 2024 (Modules 1 & 2)

Keystone Biology

- For HS students currently enrolled in Applied Biology, Biology, or Biology Honors or who need to retest.
 - May 16, 2024 (Module 1)
 - May 17, 2024 (Module 2)

Keystone Literature

- For HS students currently enrolled in English 10 or Pre-AP English 10
 - May 20, 2024 (Module 1)
 - May 21, 2024 (Module 2)

Cyclical Monitoring Schedule -

Keith Focht will send out the New Cyclical Monitoring Schedule for the 2023-2024 school year in July when the formal PENN*LINK on this topic comes out.

PaTTAN Training Opportunities - <http://www.pattan.net/category/Training/Calendar/>

Mr. Focht shared out the website of the PaTTAN training initiatives and the ease to access their site with the different training opportunities.

❖ **The Arc of Pennsylvania Update: Jessica Capitani / Emma Nolan**

Legislative Update – PA General Assembly

- **PA Department of Education Extends FAPE to 22nd Birthday.**
 - **Webinar September 28th at 6:00 PM**
 - **Register at:**
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlvfumvrD8gGNTVey0ph0SuQRnXg-hn0p9?fbclid=IwAR0xE3FZGK_QAcVzrcYfCu4wGvYxNWqVJgZZowNzOH0wy-Rd4Es9XAQ9nJc#/registration
- **Representative Otten (R- Chester) –**
introduced [House Bill 1593](#) which would expand access to Early Intervention services to children born to mothers at high-risk for or diagnosed with postpartum depression and children who have experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE).
- **Representative Harkins (D – Erie) –**
introduced [House Bill 301](#) which would remove derogatory language from the Pennsylvania School Code. This was introduced back in March 2023 and has passed through the House of Representatives.
 - Independent Regulatory Review Commission released two new regulations:
 - Department of Education: [Intellectual Disability Terminology Update #6-342 \(IRCC # 3380\)](#)
 - State Board of Education: [Intellectual Disability Terminology Update #6-341 \(IRCC #3379\)](#)

[A significant amount of language change was provided and passed through the House of Representative and to the Senate Education and was re-referred back to Senate Appropriations.](#)

[In addition, the Independent Regulatory Review Commission \(IRRC\) – released two new propose regulation with the State Board of Education the Department of Education that](#)

[corresponds with the language of the School Code in regards to intellectual disabilities Terminology. Linked above.](#)

- **Representative Sappey (D – Chester) –** introduced [House Bill 1680](#) which would require the PA Department of Education to create curriculum that schools districts may choose to offer about hearing loss prevention and associated stigma surrounding hearing impairment and loss.

❖ **Systemic Concerns Reported: None – there have been some transportation issues.**

❖ **Future Agenda Items-**

- *Special Education in Pennsylvania*
- *Gifted in Pennsylvania*
- Acronyms and Definitions

❖ **Next Year’s State Task Force Meetings – (Subject to change)**

- Wednesday, September 20, 2023
- Wednesday, November 8, 2023
- Wednesday, January 10, 2024
- Wednesday, March 20, 2024
- Wednesday, May 15, 2024

❖ **Local Task Force Sharing Time – Kelly from CPARC**

❖ **State Task Force Recap:**

- **Keith Focht will be making an attempt to reach out to the IU Special Education Directors in reference to LTF membership and how they can support that.**
- **Please review your 2023-24 LTF meeting dates, times, Links, on the STF Contact Sheet to make sure they are correct. If there are any mistakes, please let me know in order for me to make the corrections on the document we have posted on our website, Thank you!!**
- **There was discussion on how to have at least one meeting where we could encourage a face-to-face meeting at the three PaTTAN sites and designated Intermediate units. On LTF member suggested we would provide a working lunch to encourage those to come to the download site to participate.**
- **Next State Task Force on the Right to Education Meeting - Wednesday, November 8th, 2023, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, per Zoom. The new Zoom Meeting Address:**
 - **Join Zoom Meeting**
<https://csiu.zoom.us/j/91913791487>
Meeting ID: 919 1379 1487

One tap mobile

+13052241968,91913791487# US

+13092053325,91913791487# US

- **Adjournment: Motion for Adjournment made by – Jessica Capitani; seconded by Emma Nolan.**