



**State Task Force
On the Right to Education
Wednesday, May 10, 2023,
Minutes
10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

Zoomlink: <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**
- ❖ **Welcome: Local Task Force Chairpersons & Vice Chairpersons and Members, Agencies, and Others via ZOOM**
- ❖ **Old Business:**
 - **March 15, 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 - Emma Dolan.**

- **STF Website Link:** <https://www.pattan.net/about-us/partners/state-task-force/>
- **Topic Points of Discussion and Presentations:**
 - **Wednesday, May 10, 2023 -10:00 am – Guest Speakers –**
 - **Barbara Mozina -SPP-ARP –**
Barbara Mozina had emailed Mr. Focht the night before this meeting, sharing another obligation came up within the Bureau of Special Education, and requested to present at our next September 20th, 2023, STF meeting.
 - **McKinley Rouse – PADDCC – RFA (Request for Application) –** McKinley Rouse, a staff Member, who works for the Pennsylvania Department of Developmental Programs, shared out to the group the grant process they utilize to help supporting individuals with developmental disabilities. Mr. Rouse share out the process of Request for Application also shared out recent RFA which were written.
 - **Cynthia-Grace Devine-Kepner - Pennsylvania PTA Federal Legislative Chair**
[2023 National-State-Local PTA Legislative Advocacy Presentation](#)
Cynthia-Grace Devine-Kepner - Pennsylvania PTA Federal Legislative Chair provided a very comprehensive presentation on the different supports and advocacy they provide at the federal and state level. Ms/ Devine-Kepner provided her PowerPoint to share as well as her contact information.

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
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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.
- ✓ 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@thearcpa.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.

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>

Conferences

Mr. Focht shared out to the audience the conference is hyperlinked to the conference registration page of each conference. However, there are some conferences that have not been formally scheduled yet and may be listed as “Save the Date”.

Conference Title	Date / Location	In-person / Virtual / hybrid
AAC Talks Web Conference	May 12, 2023	Virtual
PaTTAN Literacy Symposium	TBD	Virtual
Hune Conferencia Annual de Jovenes	May 16, 2023	Virtual
Math Conference	June 13 & 14, 2023	Virtual
PDE Computer Science for ALL - PA Summit (#CSForALLPA)	June 14 & 15, 2023	Hybrid/PaTTAN Central (Harrisburg)
Pennsylvania Deaf-Blind Project's Family Learning Conference	June 23 & 24, 2023	Hybrid/State College
National Autism Conference	July 31-August 3, 2023, Following year - August 5-8. 2024	Hybrid/State College
PA Community of Practice Transition Conference	August 9 & 10, 2023	Hybrid/State College

2023 National Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE) Conference	June 12-15, 2023	700 In-Person will be accepted
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
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

- **Election Process-**
 - [The Election Process for the Commonwealth](#)
 - [Guideline Script For Election Process For the Local Task Forces](#)

With this being the last STF meeting of the year, Mr. Focht shared out to the LTFs the need to have their requires annual elections. He also shared out the timelines for these elections to occur. Elections are to be held at the Local Task Force meeting, on or before June 30th. The results must be sent by August 1st to the State Task Force Chairperson at kfocht@pa.gov. Attached are the hyperlinks of documents that provide the Election Process as well as a script to which the LTF Chair and Co-chair can utilize to help the with the procedure.

❖ **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**

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 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.

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 24-28, 2023	Grades 3-8
Mathematics, Science and Make-ups	May 1-5, 2023	Grades 3-8
Early Reporting Deadline	May 5, 2023	Grades 3-8
PSSA Math, Science, Makeups (Optional)	May 8-12, 2023 (No early reporting)	Grades 3-8

Keystone – Algebra I * Biology * Literature *

Time of Year	Dates
Winter Wave 1	December 5-16, 2022
Winter Wave 2	January 4-18, 2023
Spring	May 15-26, 2023
Summer	July 24-28, 2023

PASA –

PASA Activity	Dates
Test Administration Window	March 13, 2023 - May 5, 2023
Electronic School Reports Available in Kite Educator Portal	Beginning June 23, 2023
Printed Score Reports Mailed	Beginning July 28, 2023

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

Senator Jarrett Coleman circulated a [co-sponsorship memo](#) indicating his intent to introduce legislation that would allow schools to apply to the Department of Education for a waiver of many state-imposed mandates.

Senator Rosemary Brown circulated a [co-sponsorship memo](#) indicating her intent to introduce legislation that would implement the 2013 Special Education Funding Commission's recommendation for applying the same special education funding principles used to distribute special education funding to school districts for a student enrolled in a charter school.

Senator Nick Miller circulated a [co-sponsorship memo](#) indicating his intent to introduce legislation that would accelerate funding towards the Level Up initiative to assist students from inequitably funded school districts.

Senator Lindsey Williams circulated a [co-sponsorship memo](#) indicating her intent to introduce legislation that would provide for charter and cyber charter school reforms.

Representative Bizzarro introduced [House Bill 132](#) which would amend the Public School Code of 1949, in charter schools, providing for full-time cyber education program offered by school districts.

Representative Ciresi introduced [House Bill 114](#) which would amend the Public School Code of 1949, in reimbursements by Commonwealth and between school districts, further providing for student-weighted basic education funding and for special education payments to school districts.

❖ Systemic Concerns Reported: None

❖ 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**

❖ **State Task Force Recap:**

- **Survey will go out to determine what topics you want the STF to address.**
- **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.**
- **We are now in the throes of LTF election time. Once you have determined who the Chair and Vice-chair or the Co-chairs are, please let me know through email and share with me their names, email address, telephone number, and home address.**
- **Also please let me know the dates, times, place, and zoom link of your defined LTF meetings for the 2023-2024 School Year in order for me to develop the Statewide LTF contact sheet.**
- **Next State Task Force on the Right to Education Meeting - Wednesday, September 20th, 2023, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, per Zoom**

❖ **Adjournment: Motion for Adjournment made by - Keith Focht**