



**State Task Force On the Right to Education Minutes**  
**Wednesday, November 2, 2022**  
**10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Presenters:**

Barbara Mozina - Special Education Data Report and the Penn State Data Center website for the BSE  
Amiris Dipuglia – Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network – Board Certified  
Behavior Analyst -BC/BA Presentation

- ❖ **Call to Order:** Keith H. Focht
- ❖ **Welcome:** Local Task Force Chairpersons & Vice Chairpersons and Members, Agencies, and Others
- ❖ **Introduction:** Mr. Focht did a quick overview of today's meeting. He also introduced the two guest speakers presenting in today's meeting.
- ❖ **Old Business:**
  - Mr. Focht shared out the September minutes and asked if any corrections were needed. the September 17, 2022 –Jessica Capitani made the motion to accepted the minutes and seconded by Gary Smith. These minutes will be sent to all via e-mail and will be posted on the STF Website, STF Website Link: <https://www.pattan.net/Partners/State-Task-Force>
  - Parent Satisfaction Survey Update - The two URLs listed below are:  
Mr. Focht shared the Bureau of Special Education has granted permission to make these surveys active again for the LTFs to utilize if they wish to.

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:**

Mr. Focht again reviewed with the audience the need to follow the following bulleted items below at their Local Task Force team meetings.

- 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](mailto:cadenrox@verizon.net)) The Arc of Pennsylvania – (540) 539-6671.
- Gary Smith ([smiga@pa.gov](mailto:smiga@pa.gov)) The Office of Developmental Programs - (717) 934-4948.
- Katie Yost ([kyost@thearcpcpa.org](mailto:kyost@thearcpcpa.org))– Government and Advocacy Associate – The Arc of Pennsylvania – (717) 234-2621.
- Keith Focht ([kfocht@pa.gov](mailto:kfocht@pa.gov)) – State Task Force Chairman – Bureau of Special Education - (717) 783-6921 or work cell (717) 982-4423.

• **PA ABLE Savings Program - PA ABLE Savings Program - Webinars**

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.

[Register here](#) for Nov. 9, 2022, from 6 to 7 p.m.

[Register here](#) for Dec. 7 from 10 to 11 a.m.

## ❖ New Business: State Task Force / Old Business

1. Local Task Force Contact Information for the 2022-2023 School Year. Please review the Contacts, Dates, Times, Zoom Links, location and presentation style. Send an email to Keith Focht to bring corrections to our attention for us to correct before we post it on the STF website. [2022-2023 LTF Contacts](#)
2. BSE Luncheon - The 2023 Pennsylvania Department of Education Conference will be Mach 1-3, 2023 this year. Each year the Bureau of Special Education invites the Chairpersons and Vice-chairpersons to the conference and
3. At the BSE LTF Appreciation Luncheon, it was shared one of the State Task Force goals for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year was to increase parent membership of the LTFs across the commonwealth by 5%. The STF will be reaching out to the 29 LTFs more this upcoming year to help facilitate this. The STF will:
  - Attend more LTF meeting – in person and virtual
  - Reach out to more IUs to seek out more support in helping this initiative occur
  - Work with the local LTFs agencies, and parents in seeking out more parent participation.
  - Connect different LTFs with each other to discuss strategies and successes they have used to increase membership.
4. The STF wishes to have an open-forum meeting with all of the LTF’s Chairs, Co-chairs, and Vice-chairs to discuss successes and concerns as we come into the new year. This meeting will also provide an overview of the history of the LTF and also the duties and responsibilities asked of them.
5. The STF request each LTF to provide minutes of their meeting to the corresponding STF member assigned to your LTF. This will provide another avenue for the STF members to keep in touch with their assigned LTFs.
6. November 7<sup>th</sup> and November 14<sup>th</sup> : [State Task Force Discussion Meeting](#)

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### Conferences for 2022- 2023 School Year

Conference Title	Date / Location	In-person / Virtual / hybrid
<a href="#">2023 Pennsylvania Department of Education Conference</a>	March 1-3, 2023- Hershey Lodge & Convention Center	Hybrid
<a href="#">AAC Talks Web Conference</a>	May 12, 2023	Virtual
<a href="#">PaTTAN Literacy Symposium</a>	TBD	Virtual
<a href="#">PDE Computer Science for ALL - PA Summit (#CSForALLPA)</a>	June 14 & 15, 2023	Hybrid/PaTTAN Central (Harrisburg)
<a href="#">Pennsylvania Deaf-Blind Project's Family Learning Conference</a>	TBD	Hybrid/State College
<a href="#">2023 Special Education Leadership Academy</a>	TBD	Hybrid/Seven Springs

<b>Conference Title</b>	<b>Date / Location</b>	<b>In-person / Virtual / hybrid</b>
<a href="#">2023 Pennsylvania Department of Education Conference</a>	March 1-3, 2023- Hershey Lodge & Convention Center	Hybrid
		Mountain Resort
<a href="#">National Autism Conference</a>	July 31-August 3, 2023, Following year - August 5-8. 2024	Hybrid/State College
<a href="#">PA Community of Practice Transition Conference</a>	August 2023	Hybrid/State College
<a href="#">HELIX: High Expectations for Low Incidence Disabilities</a>	November 14-16, 2022 - Registration Open Soon!	Hybrid/State College
<a href="#">The Arc National Convention</a>	November 10-12, 2022- Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel,	In - Person
<a href="#">2023 National Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE) Conference <a href="https://pagov-my.sharepoint.com/personal/kfocht_pa_gov/Documents/Desktop/STF%20Meeting%209-21-2022/APSE%20Statement.docx">https://pagov-my.sharepoint.com/personal/kfocht_pa_gov/Documents/Desktop/STF%20Meeting%209-21-2022/APSE%20Statement.docx</a></a>	June 12-15, 2023	700 In-Person will be accepted
<a href="#">PA PBS Implementers' Forum</a>	November 29 – December 2, 2022,	Hybrid / Hershey Lodge & Convention Center
<a href="#">MTSS Conference Implementers' Forum</a>	Fall 2023	TBD

### Topic Points of Discussion and Presentations:

#### Presentation

I. – Barbara Mozina - Special Education Data Report and the Penn State Data Center website for the BSE

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1spTiDjQHto5VN7DQ-YASgrL7NgwXQsg8/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1spTiDjQHto5VN7DQ-YASgrL7NgwXQsg8/view?usp=share_link)

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pM1Dy66r3Gv02f5SFvkhcVZr15QTtSHJ/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pM1Dy66r3Gv02f5SFvkhcVZr15QTtSHJ/view?usp=share_link)

II - Amiris DiPuglio – Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network –Board Certified Behavior Analyst -BC/BA Presentation

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## **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](mailto:Smiga@pa.gov) to submit it for consideration or readers may send inquiries and/or story ideas to [ra-pwmyodp@pa.gov](mailto: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 cohorts of 25 learners. First cohort started in May 2022 and ended in June. Second cohort began in September and ended October 2022.

### **Policy Amendments Waivers:**

- Consolidated and Community Living Waivers - adding the capacity to serve children with medically complex conditions – Effective June 1, 2022, renewals of the Consolidated, Community Living and P/FDS waivers and an amendment to the Adult Autism Waivers are currently pending approval with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

### **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. Two follow-up events are scheduled (virtually) in October and in March. An in-person event will be held again at the Secondary Transition Pre-Conference in the summer of 2023.
- ODP along with OMHSAS and the Dept. of Labor presented at the Secondary Transition Conference August 8-9, 2022. Theme: **Competitive Integrated Employment Through Empowerment**- An overview of the programs available from DHS that support Individuals with disabilities that 1) support individuals with disabilities to obtain and maintain competitive integrated employment 2) highlight the partnerships between DHS and PA Workforce Board and 3) provide learners with resources on the benefits of hiring people with disabilities.

### **Pennsylvania Autism Training Conference**

- Registration is open for ODP's annual Pennsylvania Autism Training Conference (PATC) November 1-3 (*see attached flyer*)

### **Data:**

- As of August 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 – August 2022** 17%
- 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 Laura Cipriani at [smiga@pa.gov](mailto:smiga@pa.gov) or [lcipriani@pa.gov](mailto:lcipriani@pa.gov)

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



Dr. Amy Pastorak, Assistant Director at the Bureau of Special Education attended the ceremonial bill signing for the Disability Inclusive Curriculum Legislation (HB 1642) held on Tuesday, September 20, 2022. The revisions to the School Code create a pilot program related to instruction on the contributions by people with disabilities to be implemented for the 2023-2024 school year.

### **Mentoring Project – Calling All Novices!**

Are you a novice special education teacher, administrator, or school psychologist? Would you benefit from being able to have open dialogue around your new role and its many demands with someone who has travelled this career pathway before you? If so, consider joining the APR Mentoring Project.

The APR (**Attract, Prepare, and Retain**) Mentoring Project continues to accept applications for any Pennsylvania special education teacher, special education administrator, or school psychologist with three or less years of experience in their current position. If you, or someone you know, could benefit from being paired with an experienced mentor for the 2022-2023 school year, you are encouraged to apply. Access the application by using this link: <https://fs25.formsite.com/3fHiZQ/mentee22/index.html>.

Receive support, ideas, and resources throughout the year from someone who knows special education and has a vested interest in helping you to navigate it all. Contact Christine Moon, APR statewide lead, at [cmoon@pattanpgh.net](mailto:cmoon@pattanpgh.net) with any questions that you may have about this project.

## **APR October Networking and Learning Community Opportunities**

You are invited to build connections with other special education personnel across Pennsylvania as you share ideas, engage in problem-solving and learn from one another. The following sessions will be offered across the month of November:

- **Speech and Language: Master Class Learning Community for SLPS – Using Data to Drive Practices** – November 3, 2022 from 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM
- **Teachers of the Deaf: Meet and Greet** – November 15, 2022, from 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM both in person and virtually at the HELIX Conference

\*Register for the session(s) by visiting the [PaTTAN training calendar](#).

To learn more about these opportunities and others like them, visit the [APR Repository](#)

## **PaTTAN Family Resource Group**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION: 2 minute video** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1mj70PEkzx0>

All families of children who are deaf or hard of hearing (DHH), blind or visually impaired (BVI), or deaf-blind (DB) are invited to sign up for the [PaTTAN Family Resource Group](#).

The goal of this group is to send out resources, event information, and contacts that can benefit your family and child. It is an easy way for you to get updates and take advantage of any available opportunities.

**This is for you** if your child has a hearing, vision, or hearing and vision concern and is getting ready to transition from Early Intervention/Preschool into school-age services.

**This is for you** if your child is deaf/hard of hearing, blind/visually impaired, or deaf-blind and is already in school.

**Your information will not be shared outside of the PaTTAN Initiatives.** We do not need any identifying information about your child. Information will be grouped according to your area of interest (DHH, BVI, or DB), and you can unsubscribe at any time.

**The Family Resource Group** is a way for us to send up-to-date resources, opportunities, and connections directly to your family. It helps you and your child have more access to what you need for success in school and beyond. It will keep your family more informed about the special education process and about available supports across Pennsylvania.

Thank you for your time and interest! Please pass this invitation on to any other families you may know who have a child with hearing, vision, or hearing and vision concerns. Also, sharing with your school staff and medical professionals can help get the word out to other families and colleagues who they may work with or know. We want to reach all families across the Commonwealth of PA !!

[Family Resource Group – EI Signup \(web version\)](#)

[Family Resource Group - EI Signup \(PDF\)](#)

[Family Resource Group - School Age Signup \(web version\)](#)

[Family Resource Group - School Age Signup \(PDF\)](#)

## **PaTTAN BSE Bulletin for Educators -**

Information to Educators – PaTTAN provides trainings information to parents on a regular basis. However, did you know, additionally on their site they provide information, training and ideas for educators? <https://www.pattan.net/Publications/BSE-Bulletin>

### **❖ The Arc of Pennsylvania Update: Jessica Capitani**

#### **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 amended in the Senate Appropriations to use more person first language. Bill has gone back to the House for a concurrence 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....”.

House Bill 540 remains in the House Education Committee.



### **House Bill 1829**

This bill would create a disability inclusive curriculum pilot program in which schools participating would teach about the impact of people with disabilities on society as a whole. The curriculum would be decided on by an advisory committee in which members of the committee must be individuals with lived experience or family. House Bill 1829 remains in the House Education Committee.

***This bill's legislative language was compiled into the Education Fiscal code that was passed along with the 2022-2023 State Budget.***

### **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 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 is now in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

### **House Bill 2180**

Legislation 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 remains in the House Education Committee.

### **House Bill 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.***

### **House Bill 2674**

Representative Jason Ortity's legislation that would extend Act 66 of 2021 for one more year. Therefore, students with disabilities who were set to graduate or turn 21 during the 2021-2022 school year have the option to stay for an additional year and participate in the 2022-2023 school year. This extension is not eligible for students who took part of Act 66.

***This bill's legislative language was compiled into the Education Fiscal code that was passed along with the 2022-2023 State Budget.***

### **House Resolution 138**

Representative Karen Boback introduced 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.

### **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.

### **Senate Bill 1276**

Senator Ryan Aument introduced a bill to extend Act 66 of 2021 to students with disabilities who are 18-21 years old during the 2021-2022 school year the ability to stay until their 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

Senate Bill 1276 remains in the Senate Education Committee

### **Senate Resolution 235**

Senator Christine Tartaglione introduced a resolution marking March 2022 as Disability Awareness Month in Pennsylvania.

Senate Resolution 235 remains Senate Rules and Executive Nominations Committee.

### **Senate Resolution 339**

Senator Christine Tartaglione introduced a resolution marking October 2022 as Disability Employment Awareness Month in Pennsylvania.

***Senate Resolution 339 was referred to the Senate Rules and Executive Nominations Committee.***

### **Senate Resolution 363**

Senator Scott Martin introduced a resolution marking October 2022 as Down Syndrome Awareness Month in Pennsylvania.

***Senate Resolution was referred to the Senate Rules and Executive Nominations Committee.***

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- ❖ **Systemic Concerns Reported: None**
  - ❖ **Future State Task Force Dates and Presentations**
    - **Wednesday, November 2, 2022 - 10:00 am – 12:00 pm – BCBA & SPP**
    - **Wednesday, January 11, 2023 – 10:00 am – 12:00 pm – McKinley Rouse - Pennsylvania Developmental Disability Council (PADDC) – Intro update**
    - **Wednesday, March 15, 2023 – 10:00 am – 12:00 pm – TBD - Need your ideas**
    - **Wednesday, May 10, 2023 – 10:00 am – 12:00 pm – TBD - Need your ideas**
  - ❖ **Local Task Force Sharing Time -**
  - ❖ **Next State Task Force on the Right to Education Meeting – January 11, 2023 – Hybrid**
  - ❖ **Adjournment: Motion for Adjournment made by – Jessica Capitani; seconded by – Gary Smith**