
Meeting Dates: 2025-2026

- October 22, 2025
 - November 19, 2025
 - January 21, 2026
 - February 18, 2026
 - April 29, 2026
 - May 21, 2026
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- Meetings are on Wednesday mornings at 10:00AM
 - Every meeting is open to the public
 - We encourage family, IU, and school district participation
 - Our meetings are held through Zoom

Meeting Locations:

Zoom: 573 878 6005

Passcode: CLIU21

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://cliu-org.zoom.us/j/5378786005?omn=97292651509>

Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21
4210 Independence Drive
Schnecksville, PA 18078
610-769-4111
<https://www.cliu.org/>



Local Task Force 21 School Districts:

- Allentown School District
- Catasauqua Area School District
- East Penn School District
- Jim Thorpe Area School District
- Lehigh Area School District
- Northern Lehigh School District
- Northwestern Lehigh SD
- Palmerton Area School District
- Panther Valley School District
- Parkland School District
- Salisbury Township SD
- Southern Lehigh School District
- Weatherly Area School District
- Whitehall-Coplay School District

Additional Resources for Families and Professionals

Special Education Consult Line:

800-879-2301

PEAL:

866-950-1040 www.pealcenter.org

Disability Rights Pennsylvania:

800-692-7443 www.disabilityrightspa.org

The Education Law Center of PA:

215-238-6907 www.elc-pa.org

PaTTAN:

800-360-7282; www.pattan.net

The ARC of Pennsylvania:

800-692-7258; www.thearcpa.org

(Dept of Ed.) Bureau of Special Needs:

717-783-6788; www.education.pa.gov

Office of Dispute Resolution:

800-222-3353; www.odr-pa.org

State Task Force Office:

800-446-5607 ext. 6828

RIGHT TO EDUCATION: LOCAL TASK FORCE 21



Our mission is to support families in understanding the value of connections with others in the special needs community, while providing information about rights and regulations that affect their special needs student's rights. We help those with disabilities and their caregivers find resources to effect positive change in their lives.
Together we can do great things!

Officer Contact Information:

Amanda Robbins
Chairperson
Jessica Miococchi
Co-Chairperson

mandaphd1@gmail.com
localtaskforce21@gmail.com

Visit our Facebook Page:
[@Localtaskforce21](#)

Local Task Force History

The Right to Education Local Task Force, otherwise known as LTF, was established in 1972 due to the PARC Consent Decree.

The PARC Consent Decree was created after the PA Association for Retarded Citizens, now the ARC of PA, sued the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the rights of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities to attend public school.

The state of Pennsylvania agreed to provide a Free and Appropriate Public Education, otherwise known as FAPE, for all children with disabilities.

The Court's decree established the standard that each child must be offered an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and that children should be placed in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) possible while promoting inclusive practices.

The PARC Consent Decree was then recognized on a national level as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, also known as IDEA, in 1975.

Membership:

The Local Task Force 21 members are families of children with disabilities otherwise known as consumers. In addition to families, each LTF must have representatives from: The CLIU 21 (Director or designee), The ARC of PA (Advocates or designee), and Service Providers serving school-aged, special needs children (currently 22 years of age).

Families and agencies that are interested in membership are a crucial part of keeping the Local Task Force effective. Our members are residents of, or provide services within Lehigh and Carbon Counties.

Consumer Representatives:

Theresa LaFavor; Consumer Rep., Catasauqua SD:
hellofabutler436@gmail.com

Amanda Robbins; Consumer Rep., East Penn SD:
mandaphd1@gmail.com

Alyssa Mierta; Consumer Rep., East Penn SD:
miertaa@gmail.com

Lisa Mendoza; Consumer Rep., Parkland SD:
mendoza.lisa02@gmail.com

Jessica Ruckel; Consumer Rep., Parkland SD:
rucksaysgobucks@yahoo.com

Sandra D'Alessandro; Consumer Rep., Salisbury SD:
sdal65@aol.com

Agency Representatives:

Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21:
Dr. Mark Scott, Director Special Programs;
scottm1@cliu.org

The Arc of Lehigh and Northampton Counties:
Susan Kluge; Arc Advocate
skluge@arcoflehighnorthampton.org

The Arc of Pennsylvania:
Eleni Burd; Include Me/ADEPT Program Specialist
eburd@includemepa.org

The Arc of Northeastern PA:
Roseann Polishan, Arc Advocate, LTF19 Chairperson,
rp Polishan@thearcnepa.org

Mandy Colville, Arc Advocate, LTF20 Chairperson,
mcolville@thearcnepa.org

Office of Developmental Programs (ODP):
Maureen Timlin, Human Services Program Representative,
PA Dept. of Human Services
mtimlin@pa.gov

Office of Vocational Resources (OVR):
Mara Wolfe, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor,
PA Department of Labor & Industry
marawolfe@pa.gov

Kaitlynn Tretter, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor,
PA Department of Labor & Industry kaitlynn.tretter@pa.gov

Lehigh County Representative:
Heather Shirk, MS, Program Specialist:
Lehigh County Office of Intellectual Disabilities
HeatherShirk@lehighcounty.org

Carbon County Representative:
Kaitlyn Argueta, Social Services Aide
KArgueta@cmphds.org

Supports Coordination Organizations:
Quality Progressions: 610-691-0215
<https://qualityprogressions.org/contact/>

Sam, Inc.: 717-848-8744
supportscoordination@sam-inc.org

Therapeutic Support and Other Resources:

Kathy Purcell, MT-BC, Director, Therapy Arts Groups
info@therapeuticartsgroup.com

Katerri Beachum, Family Resource Specialist: PEAL Center,
kbeachum@pealcenter.org

Diane Perry, Family Resource Specialist: PEAL Center
dperry@pealcenter.org

Alyssa Mierta, Northeast Regional Coordinator,
Parent To Parent, amierta@parenttoparent.org

Mimi Ludwig, Founder, Lehigh Valley Autism Society
autismsocietylv@gmail.com

Why you should attend LTF21 meetings and seek membership:

- You are a family member supporting a student with a disability.
- You are a public/private provider within Lehigh and/or Carbon County
- You are a school district or IU21 employee.
- You have an interest in learning more about special education.
- You want to network with others and share and/or gain community information.
- There is a systemic issue that affects, or has the potential to affect, a number of special needs students in your district.
- You are interested in becoming a Parent (Consumer) Representative for the school district you reside in.
- You're interested in supporting the Local Task Force as an Agency Representative.

For further information, please call:
LTF21 Chair: Amanda Robbins: 610-533-0344 or
Co-Chair: Jessica Miococci: 781-801-2231