

## LOCAL RIGHT TO EDUCATION TASK FORCE #15

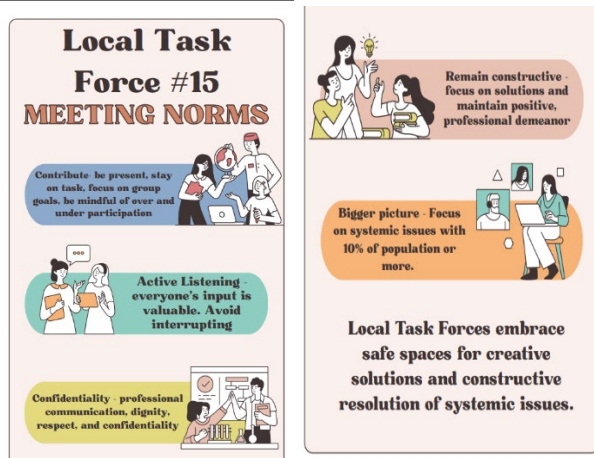
Monday, May 18, 2026

[May 18, 2026 Zoom Recording Link](#)

### I. Welcome and Introductions and Planning for 2025-2026 LTF meetings- Patti Wiedt

Patricia Wiedt	LTF # 15 Chair and Family Member
Laken Wilson	LTF # 15 Co-Chair and CPARC Advocate
Beth-Ann McConnell	LTF # 15 IU Representative and CAIU Social Worker/Interagency Coordinator
Candis Chubb	LTF # 15 LEA Representative, Cumberland Valley SD
Kathleen Haigh	PEAL Center Family Resource Specialist
Jennifer Sloppy	Family Member – Dauphin County
Megan Johnston	Cumberland Perry CASSP/ESAP, Child Adolescent Mental Health
Ed Bernot	Dauphin County Service Access Coordinator/Supervisor
Mark Evans	Cumberland and Perry County, IDD and Early Intervention Director
Andrew McCrea	Capital Area Intermediate Unit, Director of Student Services
Kelly Smiley	Arc of Cumberland and Perry County Advocate and Family Member
Leah Kostelac	Capital Area Intermediate Unit’s Student Services Transition Coach
Litza Morales	Technology Assisted Children’s Home Program
Lisa Gipe	Family Member – Cumberland Valley SD
Shannon Gay	South Middleton School District, Supervisor of Special Education
Sue Bower	Family Member
Angela Persing	Derry Township School District, Assistant Director of Special Education
Nicole Irish	PaTTAN’s Schools Engaging Families Educational Consultant

### II. Meeting Norms/Mission Statement/System Concern- Candi Chubb went over LTF # 15’s norms and agreements.



The purpose of the Local Task Force was briefly discussed in relation to systemic vs. personal concerns.

**Systemic Concern noted:** The following was shared with Lisa Smith, PaTTAN’s Administrative Assistant to the Directors at PaTTAN. Lisa Smith is our LTF’s liaison for Dr. Carole Clancy.

A concern raised by a family member during yesterday’s Local Task Force meeting centered around PSSA testing. Specifically, families shared questions about the ability to opt students out of testing, the level of stress the assessments place on students, and whether the tests maintain integrity when some students are unable to meaningfully complete them. Families also asked what the overall purpose of standardized testing is and what outcomes schools and the state are intended to achieve through these assessments. The discussion focused on both clarifying the purpose and use of the PSSAs, as well as communicating the concerns families have regarding the emotional impact on students.

- Another family member shared that PSSA results are used to track student growth and proficiency and that the data contribute to the state’s Future Ready Index. It was also stated that when a student or family opts out of testing, those scores may be calculated as zeros within accountability measures.
- Additionally, our LEA Representative discussed the availability of data related to student participation and opt-out percentages, including information connected to the Future Ready Index. There was interest in understanding whether district-level and state-level participation data is publicly available. Could you please share where this information can be accessed, along with any guidance or clarification that could be provided to families and advocates who attended the meeting?
- The LEA Representative also noted that there may have been a discussion during a State Task Force meeting earlier this year, possibly in September, regarding low student attendance during testing. If available, could you also provide additional information or resources related to that discussion for us to share with families?
- PEAL Center, Kathleen Haigh mentioned that there were recently parameters that changed for the PSSA.
- Please note that the group engaged in discussion to help provide clarification and understanding regarding the PSSA process, and PSSA Guidelines information was shared during the meeting. The following [PSSA Guidelines](#) were also provided to families in the chat

Beth-Ann McConnell will provide guidance to the Local Task Force members upon response from Lisa Smith.

**III. State Task Force Meeting Update:** Beth-Ann McConnell

This month’s State Task Force meeting will be held on May 20, 2026

**Topic: State Task Force**

**Time: May 20, 2026 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

Join Zoom Meeting

[State Task Force 5/20/26 Zoom Meeting Information](#)

Meeting ID: 955 7449 9142

Passcode: 654321

**Important meeting updates and changes below.**

**Public Comment Time-** If you wish to make a public comment, time will be allotted during the meeting. You will need to register prior to the meeting to make a public comment.

1. Please complete the [survey](#) if you would like to register for a time slot.
2. **Public Comment time will be from 11AM to 11:30 AM at each Meeting.**

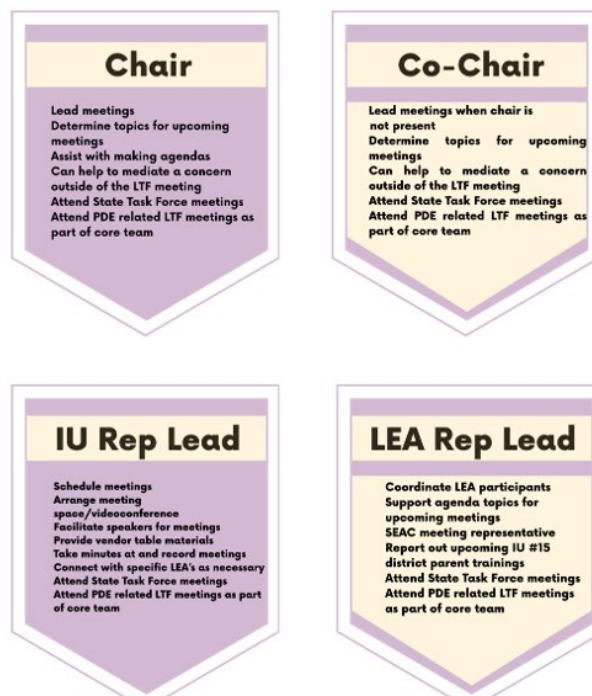
This link is for future and past [State Task Force meeting minutes](#).

**IV. Elections-** Patti Wiedt and Laken Wilson

It is that time of year for Chair and Co-Chair Elections for the next school year. After holding an election for this, Patricia Wiedt, Chair and family member, will continue in her current roles of Chair, and Laken Wilson will continue as Co-Chair.

Nicole Irish, PaTTAN's Schools Engaging Families Educational Consultant, shared the [State Task Force and Local Task Force Capacity Building Padlet](#). You can find additional information on this Padlet for your reference. The following was shared by Candis Chubb regarding the roles and responsibilities of our Core Team member.

## LTF #15 Core Team Roles and Responsibilities



### V. Member Updates:

**Families:** Laken Wilson asked families to share any resources for this summer or other resources that could be of interest to other families.

Libraries were mentioned by Jennifer Sloppy as a resource. Lisa Gipe noted that camp information needs to be sent out earlier, as many registrations happen back in February. Beth-Ann McConnell noted that there are lists that just came out last month, and they were shared by local county partners, but feedback can be shared with them to share those earlier. Patti Wiedt mentioned the [UCP Sib Shops](#) provided by UCP as a resource.

**School Districts:** No information shared.

**Cumberland-Perry MH:** Megan Johnston shared that their county is running the CASSP Elementary Student Assistance Program next school year. That is a program that is embedded in the elementary schools throughout Cumberland and Perry County. It's a voluntary program to support families with various needs. Her second update is that Merakey Stepping Stones is permanently closing its location, effective June 23rd, in Enola. They will still have their Hershey program operational.

Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute (PPI) in general, is going through some changes. They are going to be now part of Penn State Health Services, and so PPI Partial will be moving on August 10th to 6th Street in Harrisburg, so they'll have a new location. And then their inpatient facility in Harrisburg is closing. And now they are moving to the fourth floor of the Holy Spirit Medical Center in Camp Hill, and they'll have a total of 21 beds. That will be for 6 for children, 15 for adolescents. Connection's Behavioral Health Crisis Clinic, which serves Cumberland, Perry, and Dauphin counties, has made some changes to their services, starting May 10th, which just passed. Their mobile teams will be available between the hours of 7 a.m. and 12.30 a.m. only. And then their youth observation will no longer have an observation unit starting May 31st. And then their youth walk-in hours, and

just to remind everybody, the youth is starting at the age of 14. At [Connections in Harrisburg](#), their operation hours will be served between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

**Cumberland-Perry IDD:** No updates at this time

**Dauphin County MH:** N/A

**Dauphin County ID/ CMU:** Ed Bernot shared that their IDD/Autism Department is still short 1 permanent staff member.

**The Arc of Cumberland & Perry Counties:** Laken Wilson shared they just held their Caregiver training on May 2, 2026 and it was a success. Next year's caregiver training will be held in March.

**The Arc of PA:** N/A

**CAIU:**

LTF #15 Padlet: <https://edservtac.padlet.org/bmconnell17/local-task-force-15-capital-area-intermediate-unit-2025-2026-6tb9k0inizqoqm32>

CAIU LTF #15 Website

<https://www.caiu.org/community/opportunities-for-everyone/local-right-to-education-taskforce>

What is LTF video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RXcngq-4D-s>

**UCP:**

**Other:** Litza Morales, shared that she works at PHMC as a bilingual Social Work Navigator for the Technology Assisted Children's Home Program (TACHP). In this role, she coordinates community health and support programs to assist families and ensure they receive necessary care.

**VI. End of meeting survey-** Beth-Ann McConnell and Nicole Irish shared an [end of meeting survey](#) There was time to look at the survey and help to inform updates on the form for use today and for future meetings.

**VII. This year's meeting schedule**

**2025-2026 LTF # 15 Meetings**

9/29/25	10:30 to 12:00	<a href="https://caiu-org.zoom.us/j/97015199466">https://caiu-org.zoom.us/j/97015199466</a>
11/10/25	10:30 to 12:00	<a href="https://caiu-org.zoom.us/j/95538288480">https://caiu-org.zoom.us/j/95538288480</a>
1/26/26	10:30 to 12:00	<a href="https://caiu-org.zoom.us/j/93311648147">https://caiu-org.zoom.us/j/93311648147</a>
4/20/26	10:30 to 12:00	<a href="https://caiu-org.zoom.us/j/91625334040">https://caiu-org.zoom.us/j/91625334040</a>
5/18/26	10:30 to 12:00	<a href="https://caiu-org.zoom.us/j/96770479471">https://caiu-org.zoom.us/j/96770479471</a>

**VIII.** State Task Force Meetings for the 2026-2027 School year were shared. The core team will look at the dates and determine dates following these weeks for the Local Task Force meetings to be held. We will be looking at some options for two evening meetings to help encourage more family involvement for those families who cannot easily attend the morning meeting times.

<b>2026-2027 Meetings</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
State Task Force Meeting- September	09/23/2026	10AM to 12PM
State Task Force Meeting- November	11/17/2026	6 PM to 8 PM
State Task Force Meeting-January	12/2/2026	10AM to 12 PM
State Task Force Meeting-April	04/20/2027	6 PM to 8 PM
State Task Force Meeting-May	05/19/2026	10AM to 12PM
PDE Conference- February 25-27, 2026 Hershey Lodge Hershey, PA		