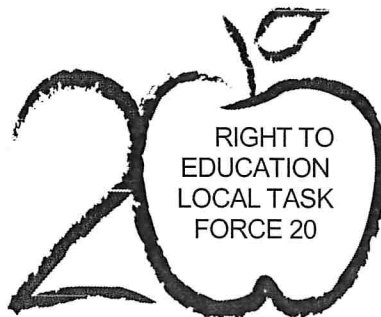


Right to Education Local Task Force 20
6 Danforth Drive
Easton, PA 18045-7899
(610) 515-6449



Mandy Colville, Chairperson
MColville@thearcnepa.org
(570) 561-3285

Teresa Romano, Co-Chairperson
Tromano13@gmail.com
(412) 600-9324

August 15, 2022

Hello!

On behalf of the Right to Education Local Task Force 20, please accept our best wishes for another successful school year for you, your staff, and your students.

In 1972, the PARC Consent Agreement resulted from a lawsuit filed by PARC (a statewide advocacy organization now known as The Arc of PA) on behalf of 13 children with intellectual disabilities who had been denied access to a free public program of education. It provided for the establishment of a state task force and 29 local task forces (one associated with each Intermediate Unit) to ensure that the intent and spirit of the Right to Education Consent Agreement is carried out throughout the Commonwealth. Accordingly, the primary purpose of these task forces is to make recommendations that assist in improving and strengthening programs and services for school-aged children with disabilities.

Our local task force, referred to as the LTF20, serves schools and students in the 13 school districts that comprise the IU20. Local membership includes:

- CIU20 Executive Director or designee
- School district Superintendent or designee
- Administrator (or designee) from Northampton County Department of Developmental Programs
- Representatives from The Arc of Lehigh & Northampton Counties
- Representatives from The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania
- Consumer representatives (parents/guardians of a school-aged person with a disability) from each of our 13 school districts
- *Any other private citizen or agency representative necessary to accomplish the purposes of the group*

Our 2022-2023 meeting schedule and brochure are attached. Please keep them in your district's Principal's Office and Special Education Office as a resource for parents. If you would like to distribute the meeting schedule and brochures to all schools in your district and/or provide them to parents at all IEP meetings, please let me know and I will email an electronic copy for you to share with families.

We invite you and/or your administration to join us this year as we continue to work together to ensure the quality and delivery of special education services for our children. We would love to hear about exemplary programs developed and coordinated within your school district.

Sincerely,

Mandy Colville

Mandy Colville
Chairperson
Right to Education Local Task Force 20

RIGHT TO EDUCATION LOCAL TASK FORCE 20

2022-23 MEETING DATES

DATE	LOCATION	PRESENTER
Monday, September 12, 2022	Join Zoom Meeting September Meeting Link Meeting ID: 935 305 1899 Password: 8GV3Fc	Dr Lisa Russo, Pattan "Inclusion 101. The Why, What and How"
Monday, October 3, 2022	Join Zoom Meeting October Meeting Link Meeting ID: 935 305 1899 Password: 8GV3Fc	Dr Domenico Cavauiolo - ESU CILLS "Career, Independent, Living and Learning Studies Program Overview"
Monday, November 7, 2022 Snow Date - November 8, 2022	Join Zoom Meeting November Meeting Link Meeting ID: 935 305 1899 Password: 8GV3Fc	Jennifer Billig "Accommodating Students in Their Least Restrictive Environment"
Monday, January 9, 2023 Snow Date - January 10, 2023	Join Zoom Meeting January Meeting Link Meeting ID: 935 305 1899 Password: 8GV3Fc	Susan Pesavento ODP "Office for Dispute Resolution - An Overview"
Monday, March 13, 2023 Snow Date - March 14, 2023	Join Zoom Meeting March Meeting Link Meeting ID: 935 305 1899 Password: 8GV3Fc	Mary Olsen BCBA "Managing Challenging Behaviors"
Monday, May 1, 2023	Join Zoom Meeting May Meeting Link Meeting ID: 935 305 1899 Password: 8GV3Fc	Elections "Understanding Special Education Funding" Katie Yost - The Arc of PA

All meetings will begin at 10:00 a.m.

All 2022-2023 Meetings will be
VIRTUAL and are open to the public.
Families are encouraged to participate

THE 2022-2023 LOCAL TASK FORCE 20 MEETING DATES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- Monday, September 12, 2022
Monday, October 3, 2022
Monday, November 7, 2022
(Snow Date Tuesday, November 8, 2022)
- Monday, January 9, 2023
(Snow Date Tuesday, January 10, 2023)
- Monday, March 13, 2023
(Snow Date Tuesday, March 14, 2023)
- Monday, May 1, 2023

ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD VIA ZOOM

10:00AM -12:00PM

ZOOM LINKS CAN BE FOUND:

- www.CIU20.ORG
(Under Family Support/Resources)
- Local Task Force 20 Facebook Page
(Under Events)

CONTACT INFORMATION

OFFICERS:

Mandy Colville
Chairperson
MColville@thearcnepa.org
Delaware Valley Area

Teresa Romano
Co-Chairperson
Tromano13@gmail.com
Saucon Valley Area

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION LOCAL TASK FORCE 20:

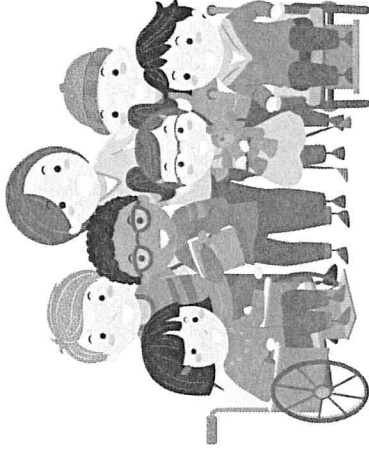
- The Local Task Force Parent Monitors work with the Bureau of Special Education Adviser in the monitoring process of LEA's special education programs and provide input and recommendations to the team for compliance of regulations.
- Assist the Administration in carrying out the Right to Education Consent Agreement.
- Assist parents of students with special needs in understanding the laws/regulations that affect their rights and help develop an appropriate education for the student with special needs.
- Refer systemic issues identified locally to the appropriate intermediate unit, LEA, local agency, Bureau of Special Education Advisor, or to the STF chairperson for clarification, recommendation or solution.
- Review recommendations of the State Task Force and advise the Administration of any recommendation which should be adopted or implemented in the CIU 20 area.
- Encourage cooperation with public and private agencies which provide services to school-age children with special needs.
- Identify local needs and problems and develop recommendations for consideration by appropriate agencies.
- Recommend solutions to problems in areas of concern as identified or brought to the attention of the Task Force.
- Advise on the best methods of informing the community about programs of special education.
- Review Intermediate Unit and District Special Education Plans and make recommendations which will help assure that they meet the needs of school-age children with special needs.
- Assist the State Task Force in the collection of data to determine the effectiveness of the Right to Education Consent Agreement.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL OR EMAIL
THE COLONIAL IU20 OFFICE AT:

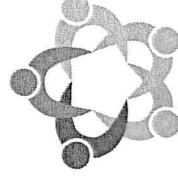
(610) 252-5550

LTF20@CIU20.ORG

RIGHT TO EDUCATION LOCAL TASK FORCE 20



Assisting families
of students with special needs
in understanding the laws and
regulations that affect their rights
and help develop an appropriate
education for the student with
special needs.



LOCAL TASK FORCE 20 INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING SCHOOL DISTRICTS:

BANGOR AREA • BETHLEHEM • DELAWARE VALLEY • EASTON AREA
EAST STROUDSBURG AREA • NAZARETH AREA • NORTHAMPTON AREA
PEN ARGYL AREA • PLEASANT VALLEY • POCONO MOUNTAIN
SAUCON VALLEY • STROUDSBURG AREA • WILSON AREA

HISTORY:

The Right To Education Local Task Force system was established in 1972. The PARC Consent Decree guaranteed a free public program of education for all school-aged persons with mental retardation or thought-to-have mental retardation regardless of their intellectual functioning. It provided for the establishment of a local Task Force in each of the 29 Intermediate Units "to ensure that the intent and spirit of the Agreement is carried out throughout the Commonwealth."

YOU SHOULD ATTEND THE LOCAL TASK FORCE 20 IF:

- A Systemic Issue: an issue that affects or has potential to affect a number of students
- You are a family member supporting a child with a disability
- You are a local public/private service provider
- You are a school district employee
- You have a concern regarding the special education system
- You want to network with family members and professionals
- You want to share information with the special education community

MEMBERSHIP:

The Local Task Force 20 is composed of families of children with special needs (consumers), CIU20 Executive Director or designee, school superintendent or designee, advocates and service providers serving school age children with special needs. According to the Consent Decree, there must be a majority of parents on the committee. Interested families are critical to the membership to keep the Local Task Force effective. Our members are from Northampton, Monroe and Pikes Counties.

MISSION:

The Right To Education Local Task Force 20 serves as a resource for children with all disabilities and their families in 13 school districts in Monroe, Northampton, and parts of Pike County. The following districts are included along with Consumer Representative.

Consumer/Parent Representatives:

Bangor Area:
Nikki Huggan
nikkihuggan@yahoo.com

Caterina Campbell
cnsccampbell7@icloud.com

Northampton Area:
Penny Evans
rp.evans@rcn.com

Rhonda Tucker
rtucker0905@gmail.com

Pen Argyl Area:
Kimberly Wismer
kimwismer1@gmail.com

Delaware Valley Area:
Mandy Colville
MColville@thearcnepa.org

Pleasant Valley Area:
Lucille Piggott-Prawl
lprawl@gmail.com

Easton Area:
Leslie McKelvey
leslie.mckelvey@yahoo.com

Pocono Mountain Area:
Danielle Hagenbuch
crzyjpr@gmail.com

East Stroudsburg Area:
VACANT

Lehigh Valley Academy Regional Charter School:
Penny Evans
rp.evans@rcn.com

Anissa Telle
dtellepa@gmail.com

Nazareth Area:
VACANT

Wilson Area:
Jennifer Dietrick
lft20.wilson@gmail.com

Virginia Biancamano
rbiancamano@hotmail.com

AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES:

Bayada Pediatrics:
Donna Buhosky- Community Liaison
dbuhosky@bayada.com

Colonial Intermediate Unit 20:
Jackie Bartek- Director of Special Education
jbartek@ciu20.org

Mikayla's Voice:
Kimberly Resh- kim@mikaylasvoice.org

Music Therapy Associates, LLC
Kathy Purcell-Kathy@musictherapyassociates.com

Northampton County Representative:
Leesa Gehman
Lgehman@northamptoncounty.org

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation:
Anna Haroun-
Mahdavi-aharounmah@pa.gov

SAM, Inc:
Vicki Weddermann- Supports Coordinator Supervisor
vweddermann@sam-inc.org

Superintendent Representative:
Lynne Star- Pocono Mountain School District
cstar@pmsd.org

The Arc of Lehigh-Northampton Counties:
Susan Kluge- Advocate
skluge@arcoflehighboroughampton.org

Debbie Ohmacht -Advocate
dohmacht@arcoflehighboroughampton.org

The Arc of NEPA:
Marl Pizur- Advocate
mpizur@thearcnepa.org

Roseann Polishan- Advocate
polishan@thearcnepa.org

The Eastern Pennsylvania Down Syndrome Center:
Teresa Romano- tromano13@gmail.com