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## Meeting Dates: 2023-2024

- September 20, 2023
  - October 25, 2023
  - December 20, 2023
  - January 24, 2024
  - February 21, 2024
  - March 27, 2024
  - May 22, 2024
- 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

<https://zoom.us/j/5378786005?pwd=VDMzYlRlbjBUTElyUzJIWGFFSDAaZz09>

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



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## 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](http://www.pealcenter.org)

### Disability Rights Pennsylvania:

800-692-7443 [www.disabilityrightspa.org](http://www.disabilityrightspa.org)

### The Education Law Center of PA:

215-238-6907 [www.elc-pa.org](http://www.elc-pa.org)

### PaTTAN:

800-360-7282; [www.pattan.net](http://www.pattan.net)

### The ARC of Pennsylvania:

800-692-7258; [www.thearcpa.org](http://www.thearcpa.org)

### (Dept of Ed.) Bureau of Special Needs:

717-783-6788; [www.education.pa.gov](http://www.education.pa.gov)

### Office of Dispute Resolution:

800-222-3353; [www.odr-pa.org](http://www.odr-pa.org)

### State Task Force Office:

800-446-5607 ext. 6828

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## RIGHT TO EDUCATION: LOCAL TASK FORCE 21

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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

[mandaphd1@gmail.com](mailto:mandaphd1@gmail.com)  
[localtaskforce21@gmail.com](mailto:localtaskforce21@gmail.com)

Visit our Facebook Page:  
[@Localtaskforce21](https://www.facebook.com/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 inclusion.

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.

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

For further information, please call: contact LTF21 Chair: Amanda Robbins: 610-533-0344 or CLIU 21: 610-769-4111

## Consumer Representatives:

Karina Castillo; Consumer Rep., Allentown SD: [corazonesusidos316@gmail.com](mailto:corazonesusidos316@gmail.com)

Theresa LaFavor; Consumer Rep., Catasauqua SD: [hellofabutler436@gmail.com](mailto:hellofabutler436@gmail.com)

Amanda Robbins; Consumer Rep., East Penn SD: [mandaphd1@gmail.com](mailto:mandaphd1@gmail.com)

Alyssa Mierta; Consumer Rep., East Penn SD: [miertaa@gmail.com](mailto:miertaa@gmail.com)

Lisa Mendoza; Consumer Rep., Parkland SD: [mendoza.lisa02@gmail.com](mailto:mendoza.lisa02@gmail.com)

Jessica Ruckel; Consumer Rep., Parkland SD: [rucsaysgobucks@yahoo.com](mailto:rucsaysgobucks@yahoo.com)

Sandra D'Alessandro; Consumer Rep., Salisbury SD: [sdal65@aol.com](mailto:sdal65@aol.com)

## Agency Representatives:

Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21:  
Dr. Mark Scott, Director Special Programs;  
[scottm1@cliu.org](mailto:scottm1@cliu.org)

The Arc of Lehigh and Northampton Counties:  
Susan Kluge; Arc Advocate  
[skluge@arcoflehighbarnhampton.org](mailto:skluge@arcoflehighbarnhampton.org)

Dr. Deb Ohmacht; Arc Advocate  
[dohmacht@arcoflehighbarnhampton.org](mailto:dohmacht@arcoflehighbarnhampton.org)

The Arc of Pennsylvania:  
Eleni Burd; Include Me/ADEPT Program Specialist  
[eburd@includemepa.org](mailto:eburd@includemepa.org)

Tierra Brown; Include Me/ADEPT Program Specialist  
[tbrown@includemepa.org](mailto:tbrown@includemepa.org)

The Arc of Northeastern PA:  
Roseann Polishan, Arc Advocate, LTF19 Chairperson,  
[rpolishan@thearcnepa.org](mailto:rpolishan@thearcnepa.org)

Mandy Colville, Arc Advocate, LTF20 Chairperson,  
[mcolville@thearcnepa.org](mailto:mcolville@thearcnepa.org)

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

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

Kaitlynn Tretter, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor,  
PA Department of Labor & Industry [kaitlynn.tretter@pa.gov](mailto:kaitlynn.tretter@pa.gov)

Lehigh County Representative:  
Heather Shirk, MS, Program Specialist:  
Lehigh County Office of Intellectual Disabilities  
[HeatherShirk@lehighcounty.org](mailto:HeatherShirk@lehighcounty.org)

Carbon County Representative:  
Emma Furioli, Waiver Coordinator: CMP-MHDS  
[EFurioli@cmpmhds.org](mailto:EFurioli@cmpmhds.org)

Supports Coordination Organizations:  
Kristy Fogle, MS, Supports Coordinator Supervisor:  
Quality Progressions [kfogle@qualityprogressions.org](mailto:kfogle@qualityprogressions.org)

Andrew Hoppes, Supervisor Supports Coordination:  
Sam, Inc. [ahoppes@sam-inc.org](mailto:ahoppes@sam-inc.org)

Therapeutic Support and Other Resources:  
Kathy Purcell, MT-BC, Director, Therapy Arts Groups  
[kathy@therapeuticartsgroup.com](mailto:kathy@therapeuticartsgroup.com)

Katerri Beachum, Family Resource Specialist: Peal Center,  
[kbeachum@pealcenter.org](mailto:kbeachum@pealcenter.org)

Nicole Lindsay, Northeast Regional Coordinator,  
Parent To Parent, [nlindsay@parenttoparent.org](mailto:nlindsay@parenttoparent.org)

Mimi Ludwig, Founder, Lehigh Valley Autism Society  
[autismsocietylv@gmail.com](mailto: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.