
Meeting Dates

2019 - 2020

September 25, 2019*
General Meeting

October 2, 2019
Connecting the Dots Resource Fair

October 23, 2019*
Presentation Only

November 27, 2019*
Presentation and General Meeting

December 18, 2019*
Presentation only

January 22, 2020*
Presentation and General Meeting

February 26, 2020*
Presentation Only

March 25, 2020*
Presentation and General Meeting

April 29, 2019
Annual Conference

May 27, 2019*
General Meeting

*All meetings are located in the All Purpose Room (APR) and will start promptly at 10am.

IU 21 Central Office

**Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 4210
Independence Drive
Schnecksville, PA 18078**

Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 Member 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 School District
Palmerston Area School District
Panther Valley School District
Parkland School District
Salisbury Township School District
Southern Lehigh School District
Weatherly Area School District
Whitehall-Coplay School District

***LTF Chair:** Valerie G. Morton, MSW, LSW
LTF Co-Chair: Janitta M. Henry, LSW, LBS
LTF Secretary: Ramona Neidig, Resource
Coordinator, Arc of Lehigh and Northampton
Counties*

Additional Resources for Families and Professionals

Special Education Consult Line: 1-800-879-2301
Disability Rights Pennsylvania: 1-800-692-7443;
www.disabilityrightspa.org
The Education Law Center of PA: 215-238-6907;
www.elc-pa.org
PA Training and Technical Assistance Network:
www.pattan.net
Secondary Transition: www.secondarytransition.org
State Task Force Office: 1-800-692-7275;
717-234-7132

Carbon and Lehigh Counties

Right to Education

Local Task Force 21



Families are encouraged to participate and represent their children at the Local Task Force

For more information contact Ramona Neidig

- Email: rneidig@arcoflehighnorthampton.org
- Phone: 610-849-8076, ext. 325

Or the Local Task Force chairs at

- Email: LocalTaskForce21@gmail.com

What is the Local Task Force?

Local Task Forces (LTFs) were formed more than twenty years ago as a result of the PARC consent decree to represent the needs and interests of students with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Today, most LTFs have expanded their efforts to include all students with disabilities.

The majority of Local Task Force members are consumers and parents of children with disabilities. In addition to parents and consumers, each LTF must have representatives from the local IU, the local MH/MR office, the local ARC, and area school districts. LTFs operate in the same geographical areas as the associated Intermediate Unit.

LTFs are actively involved with programs and services for students with disabilities in all 501 school districts across the state, and follow procedures outlined in the handbook developed by the State Task Force.



- To identify and clarify problems
- To direct recommendations of necessary changes to the appropriate source/department
- To advocate for school-age individuals
- To cooperate with public/private direct service provider agencies in planning programs and services
- To continuously monitor local education systems for compliance with the PARC consent decree
- To train new members and serve as a vehicle for educating the community
- To make recommendations for improving, strengthening, expanding, and monitoring programs and services for students with disabilities

What is the PARC consent decree?

In 1971, the organization then known as the PA Association for Retarded Citizens, now simply The Arc of PA, sued the Commonwealth of PA for the rights of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities to attend public school.

The case quickly settled before the U.S. District Court, resulting in a consent decree. The state of PA agreed to provide a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) for all children with disabilities

The Right to Education

The Court's decree laid the foundation for the establishment of the right to an education for all children with disabilities. That case also 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.

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

Local Task Force Duties and Responsibilities



You should attend the LTF if:

- 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 are interested in finding out more about the LTF
- You want to share information with the special education community

