

Local Task Force
Right to Education
Mercer County Subcommittee

Parents
Educators
Agencies



Local Task Force

***Advocates for
students and families
receiving
Special Education Services in
Mercer County***

MERCER COUNTY

History and Purpose

In 1972, the federal district court of eastern Pennsylvania made final order, injunction, stipulation and consent agreement in the suit filed by the Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Children, (PARC), now known as The Arc of Pennsylvania. The suit was filed against the Secretary of Education, the State Board of Education, the Secretary of Public Welfare, and all their agents, on behalf of thirteen children with mental retardation who had been denied access to a free public education.

This historic agreement, often referred to as the PARC Consent Agreement, mandated that the Commonwealth develop plans to identify, locate, evaluate, educate and train all school age children with mental retardation. This action pre-dated and precipitated the federal law P.L. 94-142, the Education of All Handicapped Child Act. This law was amended most recently in 1997, and is now known as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA 2004).

MIDWESTERN INTERMEDIATE UNIT IV'S LOCAL TASK FORCE

Mission Statement

To advocate on behalf of all students receiving special education services to ensure that such students receive a free, appropriate, public education in the least restrictive environment. To promote training for parents of such students through: communication, cooperation and collaboration between educators and community agency representative. To monitor public school special education programs and make recommendations for the improvement, strengthening, and expansion of such programs.

About the Local Task Force on The Right to Education

Local Task Forces (LTF's) were formed almost thirty years ago to represent the needs and interests of students with mental retardation and their families. Today, most LTF's have expanded their efforts to include all students with disabilities.

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

Membership in the Local Task Force is determined at the local level, with a 51% majority of parents/consumers required. Each LTF must have representatives of the intermediate unit, the local MH-MR, the local Arc of Pennsylvania, a school district, and parents/consumers.

Duties and Responsibilities of Local Task Forces

- Carry out the letter and spirit of the Right to Education Consent Agreement.
- Make recommendations that improve, strengthen, and expand programs.
- Advocate for students with disabilities.
- Identify and refer problems to appropriate local agencies or the State Task Force.
- Review and comment on intermediate unit and school district special education plans and budgets.
- Cooperate with public and private agencies in planning for a continuum of programs and services and a minimum of duplication.
- Educate the community at large about the needs of students with disabilities.
- Monitor local school districts to ensure quality education is being offered to all students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

**Local Task Force Right to Education
Mercer County Subcommittee**

**2009/2010 Meeting Dates
2:00 p.m.
MCAR**

850 N. Hermitage Road
Hermitage, PA 16148

Thursday, September 3, 2009

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Thursday, January 7, 2010

Thursday, February 4, 2010

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Thursday, April 1, 2010

Thursday, May 6, 2010

All meetings of the Local Task Force
are open to the public. Please come to
MCAR's front office and dial
Ext. 207 or 220
to be directed to the meeting.

**Amanda O'Brien, Co-Chairperson
(724) 662-1550, Ext. 177**

**Leslie Powell, Co-Chairperson
(724) 981-2950, Ext. 220**

Referral / Intake

Butler County MH/MR 724-284-5339

Lawrence County Human
Service Center 724-658-2538

Mercer County MH/MR 724-662-2230

The Arc of Butler County 724-282-1500

The Arc of Mercer County 724-981-2950

The Arc of Pennsylvania 800-692-7258

Lawrence Co. Association
for Retarded Citizens 724-658-8515

OVR - New Castle 724-656-3070

PA Department of Education
Consult Line 800-879-2301

PATTAN - Pittsburgh 800-446-5607

PEAL Center 866-950-1040
Or TTY 412-281-4409

Education Law Center - Pittsburgh
(www.elc-pal.org) 412-258-2120

Disability Rights Network 800-692-7443

ABOARD 800-827-9385 or
(www.aboard.org) 412-781-4116

Special Kid Network 800-986-4550

Mercer County Career Link 724-347-9257