

Local Task Force on the Right to Education in Beaver County

The Right to Education Task Force was created in 1972 as part of the P.A.R.C. Consent Agreement that provided for a free, appropriate public education for children with mental retardation. In 1975, the Right to Education was extended by State regulations to include learning disabilities, physical handicaps, emotional difficulties and hearing, visual, speech, and language impairment.

The Task Force functions as an independent organization of parents and other residents of Beaver County who are interested in working with school districts, IU27, and community agencies to further the rights of students with special needs. The primary purpose of the Right to Education Local Task Force is to make recommendations that assist in improving, strengthening, expanding, and monitoring programs and services for school-age children with special needs. It also serves as a vehicle for professional development opportunities according to parent and participant interest.

The Right to Education Task Force meetings are open to the public. The Local Task Force is facilitated by elected officials and the Beaver County Intermediate Unit. In addition, the Local Task Force is supported by the 14 Beaver County school districts.

Parents of special education students are the mainstay of the Local Task Force. We are required to have a 51 percent parent-consumer membership. Also serving on the Local Task Force are concerned citizens and representatives from: Beaver County Intermediate Unit, local school districts, ARC Advocacy Services, and local and regional special education service providers.

Duties of the Task Force

The duties of the Local Task Force include:

- Assist the administration in carrying out the rules and regulations growing out of the Right to Education Consent Decree
- Assist parents of students with special needs in understanding the law/regulations that affect their rights and help develop an appropriate educational program for the student with special needs
- Review recommendations of the State Task Force and advise the administration of any recommendations which should be adopted or implemented in the Intermediate Unit 27 area
- Encourage cooperation with public and private agencies which provide service 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
- Assist the task force in the collection of data to determine the effectiveness of the Right to Education Consent Agreement

[2021-2022 IU27 LTF Meeting Schedule](#)

Contact Us

For more information contact: Pam Stiffey, 724-774-7800 Ext. 3002 or pam.stiffey@bviu.org