

# 2024-2025

## Local Task Force of Westmoreland County Meeting Dates

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### Location for All Meetings:

Virtual via Zoom: <https://wiu7.zoom.us/j/6178568864>

**09/23/2024; 10:00 am—11:30 am**

**Topic: Advocacy in Action: Building Relationships, Understanding Roles, and Enhancing Communication**

All advocates, school staff, and parents benefit from working collaboratively on behalf of our supporting children and adolescents with disabilities. Melissa Skiffen, LTF chair and Achieva advocate, will share strategies on how advocates can build trust and respect, as well as share suggestions on effective communication and collaboration with school teams and parents.

**11/04/2024; 10:00 am—11:30 am**

**Topic: Navigating Educational vs. Mental Health Placements: A Guide to Partial and Residential Programs, and Intensive Outpatient Services**

It can be a daunting process to understand the different types of placements available to students in need of a specialized program. Join us in learning about the differences and similarities, what questions need to be asked, and other considerations.

**01/13/2025; 10:00 am—11:30 am**

**Topic: The WIU TaC Team - How Do They Support Students and School Teams?**

Did you know that every Intermediate Unit has a Training and Consultation Team that provides professional learning, consultation, collaboration, coaching, and other technical assistance to schools and school teams? Attend this session to learn about all that the WIU TaC team has to offer—we promise it is more than you knew!

**03/24/2025; 10:00 am—11:30 am**

**Topic: Behavior as Communication: Collaborative Approaches to Understanding and Proactively Addressing Behavior**

Dr. Kathryn Poggi from PaTTAN will present on understanding HOW behavior is communication and how to reframe our thinking so that we can create proactive plans that result in more appropriate means of communication.

**05/19/2025; 10:00 am—11:30 am**

**Topic: Planning for 2025-2026**

Ever wonder how the Westmoreland County Local Task Force chooses speaker topics? Join us at this important planning meeting where we decide the upcoming speaker series for the next school year.

Questions? Email [nsmith@wiu7.org](mailto:nsmith@wiu7.org) or go to <https://bit.ly/LTF-IU7>



# Join Us!

We are a group of parents, community members, and school staff who come together to collectively work toward improving the services for school-age children with disabilities.

Join us to learn and share!





# Local Task Force

## Right to Education



Parents • Schools • Agencies

The Local Task Force (LTF) is a **committee of concerned and active parents, community members, and educators**, brought together to collaboratively ensure that **all children with disabilities** in Westmoreland County receive the supports and services they need to be successful in the least restrictive environment.

- A major purpose of the Local Task Force is to propose recommendations that will **improve, strengthen, and when needed, expand services** for children with special needs.
- The Local Task Force serves as an **information-sharing and networking vehicle** between members and the community.
- The Local Task Force **addresses individual issues** brought to the committee by parents regarding their child's educational needs during Creative Resolutions.

### Meeting Information

#### Who Can Attend Meetings and Activities?

Any interested educator, community member, agency staff, person, **or parent** of a student with a disability or special need may attend any of the regularly scheduled Local Task Force meetings. It is not necessary to be a member to attend, and no advance notice is necessary .... *You are always welcome!*

#### Where and When are the Meetings?

Currently meetings are only offered virtually via Zoom. We have meetings five times per school year. Some meetings are during the daytime, and some are during the evening.

#### What Happens at the Meetings?

We have a speaker at almost every meeting. The topics are based on parent, school, and community preference and feedback. We also discuss current events, legislation, concerns and issues, and other topics related to school-age children with disabilities.

#### Where Can I Find Information More Information?

Information about upcoming meetings is attached or copied on the reverse of this flier. You can also visit <https://bit.ly/LTF-IU7> or reach out to us!

**Melissa Skiffen, LTF 7 Chairperson**

*mskiffen@achieva.info; 1.888.272.7229, Ext. 114*

**Natalie Smith, LTF 7 Vice Chairperson**

*nsmith@wiu7.org; 724.219.2321*

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