



2015 Federal Public Policy Agenda

March 2015

1) Protect Youth with Disabilities from Abuse by Establishing Federal Restrictions on the Use of Seclusion & Restraint Practices in Schools.

- Advocate for passage of the Keeping all Students Safe Act
- Promote adoption of trauma-informed practices as complimentary to PBIS in schools

2) Promote Inclusive Education for ALL Students, including Students with Severe Disabilities.

- Push for sustained accountability of local school districts with respect to individual progress of all students (ESEA)
- Advance stronger measures to ensure improved personnel preparation around and implementation of evidence-based inclusive education practices within any legislative proposals to reauthorize of the Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA).
- Assist members in states to use the recent guidance issued by the Departments of Education and Justice on bullying, discipline and communication access to advance evidence-based services and supports to students with significant disabilities.
- Assist members in states to assume their important roles as stakeholders in the design of state plans for IDEA implementation (State Systemic Improvement Plans)

3) Presume that ALL Citizens with Significant Disabilities Can Work and Participate in Competitive, Integrated Employment.

- Push for inclusion of customized employment strategies as allowable activities within local and state workforce investment programs in the recruitment of citizens with disabilities as part of the implementation of the Workforce Investment Act, and for the rebalancing of federal resources away from sheltered work to supporting integrated employment outcomes.
- Support the Transitioning toward Excellence Achievement & Mobility (TEAM) legislation.
- Support legislative and regulatory efforts to phase out the payment of subminimum wages to workers with disabilities (including but not limited to the Transitioning to Integrated and Meaningful Employment, or TIME, Act.)
- Assist members to hold states accountable for their responsibilities of the implementation of the HCBS Waiver rule of 2014.

4) Ensure Medicaid Supports Focus on Helping People with Significant Disabilities Live, Work and Achieve Optimal Self-Sufficiency in the Community.

- Support TASH's policy recommendations for rebalancing Medicaid resources toward effective personalized supports in home & typical community settings that result in independent living, integrated employment and meaningful engagement in our society for citizens with significant disabilities.
- Assist members to hold states accountable for their responsibilities of the implementation of the HCBS Waiver rule of 2014.

5) Highlight Additional Disparities and/or Findings Related to Individuals and Families of Non-Majority Cultures and Advance Policy Solutions to Identified Disparities in all Policy Statements.