



**Educator Safety Task Force (ESTF)**  
**Alternative Placements Subcommittee Meeting**  
**March 4, 2025**  
**Remote, Via Zoom**

**Meeting Minutes**

<b>Members Present</b>	Robin Singer, Beth Horowitz, Sara Peilstocker, Kelly Jacobsen, Melisa Cellen, Dustn Geist, Amy Lloyd
<b>State Employees</b>	Chris Harms, Director, Office of School Safety
<b>Facilitators</b>	Berrick Abramson and Carrie Steele, Confluence PSG

**Meeting Agenda, Purpose & Outcomes**

<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	Confluence PSG President, Berrick Abramson and the Director of the Office of School Safety, Chris Harms gave welcoming remarks.
<b>Agenda &amp; Overview of Meeting by Confluence PSG</b>	<p><b>Confluence PSG President, Berrick Abramson, gave an overview of the purpose of today’s meeting, which included:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group Discussion: Special Education Programming</li> <li>• When Alternative Schools Aren’t an Option: In-School Options: Affective Needs Centers, Alternative Classrooms &amp; Other Options</li> </ul>
<b>Key Themes &amp; Takeaways</b>	<p><b>Alternative Placement Models</b></p> <p><b>Members Discussed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Center-based programs within schools for specific needs</li> <li>• Flexible student-to-staff ratios</li> <li>• Fluid movement between specialized centers and general education classrooms</li> </ul> <p><b>Creating Supportive Environments</b></p> <p><b>Members Discussed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Zen dens" or drop-in centers for student self-regulation</li> <li>• Comfortable, non-traditional seating (e.g., bean bags, yoga balls, standing desks)</li> <li>• Low lighting and cozy atmospheres to promote calm</li> <li>• Emphasis on creating a culture of acceptance and understanding</li> </ul> <p><b>Staffing and Professional Development</b></p> <p><b>Members Discussed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Importance of staff with specialized training (e.g., BCBA’s, RBT’s, and ABAs)</li> <li>• Potential for Medicaid billing to offset costs of specialized staff</li> <li>• Need for ongoing training and collaboration among all school staff</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Curriculum and Programming</b></p> <p><b>Members Discussed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Balance between academic instruction and functional/life skills development</li> <li>● Incorporation of social-emotional learning and self-regulation strategies</li> <li>● Emphasis on student interests and strengths to increase engagement</li> <li>● Flexible scheduling to accommodate individual student needs</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Partnerships</b></p> <p><b>Members Discussed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Collaboration with ABA centers for split-day programming or in-school support</li> <li>● Potential for cost savings through strategic partnerships</li> <li>● Importance of breaking down barriers between clinical and educational settings</li> </ul>
<p><b>Next Steps</b></p>	<p><b>Upcoming Meeting Dates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The subcommittee of the Task Force has completed their work. Please check the <a href="#">Educator Safety Task Force Website</a> for updates.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>We welcome all perspectives critical to shaping the work of the Educator Safety Task Force. Please reach out to Chris Harms with questions and/or recommendations.</i></b></p>

*These minutes are intended to provide an overview of the discussions at the meeting and, where possible, the high-level themes or areas of consensus. The summaries of any topics are not presented as comprehensive notes of the full discussion. Neither the inclusion or omission of any comment or segment of a discussion should be interpreted as a judgment of the value or importance of such items.*

**If you have questions about this meeting or upcoming meetings, please contact:**

**Task Force Facilitators**

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Carrie Steele, Sr. Project Manager, Confluence PSG: [carrie@confluencepsg.com](mailto:carrie@confluencepsg.com)

**Task Force Lead**

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