

www.pylvn.org

PYVLN

The Pennsylvania Youth Leadership Network (PYLN)

Advocacy. Empowerment. Leadership.

Youth Lead, Youth Driven.

PYLN Over the Years

Established in 2004

A team of youth leaders with disabilities from across Pennsylvania. Their motto being **“For Youth, Led by Youth”**, this group:

1. Participated as leaders at in transition conferences and summits.
2. Maintained relationships between agencies and organizations to better youth engagement all across PA.
3. Managed 'PYLN chapters' across the state.
4. Created useful, youth-driven materials regarding advocacy and leadership.

Relaunched in 2024

Mentored by prior PYLN founders/members and youth leaders Hayley Penn and Erin Black. This group:

1. Empowers leadership, self advocacy, and connection through monthly meetings, participation in conferences, and relationship building.
2. Serves as a primary network to share youth leadership opportunities in the state.
3. Works to create resources and maintain youth voice in spaces it is needed throughout the state.

THE MISSION REMAINS THE SAME

To foster an open dialogue with youth and young adults to promote youth leadership, self advocacy, and independence by creating a positive and supportive network of young people with and without disabilities.



What is PYLN to You?

- A network of young people across the state of Pennsylvania
- A place to...
 - “Learn about youth leadership opportunities”
 - “Practice leadership and self advocacy”
 - “Educate myself on what is happening around the state”
 - “Showcase my leadership and self advocacy skills”
 - “Share ideas to inspire systems change in the future”
 - “Be yourself and share what leadership is to you”
 - “Get to know other youth”
 - “Feel comfortable around and support other youth”



PYLN

Who is part of PYLN?

- Pa Virtual Charter School
- Carlisle Area School District
- Canine Partners for Life
- Best Buddies
- Self Advocates United as One (SAU1)
- LOUD Youth Advocates
- Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN)
- Parent Education and Advocacy Leadership (PEAL)
- Speaking for Ourselves



Want to see your organization up here? Join our network!

PYLN



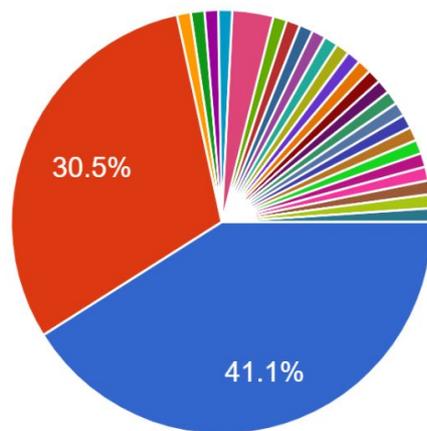
Canine Partners *for* Life



Who is part of PYLN?

I am a...

95 responses



- Youth
- Adult Ally supporting a young person
- Director of Special services
- Adult Ally/organizational contact
- being good at drawing
- School admin
- Transition Coordinator
- School Transition Coordinator

▲ 1/4 ▼

What happens at Monthly Meetings?

- **Introductions**
 - Hellos!
- **Hot Topics of the Month**
 - PYLN co-lead, leads members and meeting guests through discussions surrounding youth development and leadership. Examples of past and upcoming “Hot Topics” include Navigating Employment, Independent Living, Post-Secondary Life Skills, Mental Health, etc.
- **Featured Speaker**
 - Guests from outside organizations are invited to join the PYLN Monthly Youth Leaders call to share about youth leadership opportunities and educational tools related to the “Hot Topic of the Month”.

What happens at Monthly Meetings?

- **Youth Engagement and Leadership Opportunities in PA**
 - Time is available to share youth leadership opportunities available in PA! This time is dedicated to share new opportunities and/or current projects/groups/experiences members are involved in.
- **Closing**
 - Goodbyes!



Space for Youth and for Adult Allies

Youth Leaders

Monday, February 2nd,
2026 at 4pm

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER
FOR THE CALLS!](#)**

Adult Allies

Wednesday, February
18th, 2026 at 9am

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER
FOR THE CALLS!](#)**

What are the benefits of joining PYLN?

- Youth Empowerment
- Leadership Development
- Community and Support
- Genuine Connection!
- An opportunity for YOUTH VOICE!!
- Skill Building
- A platform for YOU to share ideas, opportunities, and more!
- Influence and Impact - be a part of important conversations and decision making going on in the state!

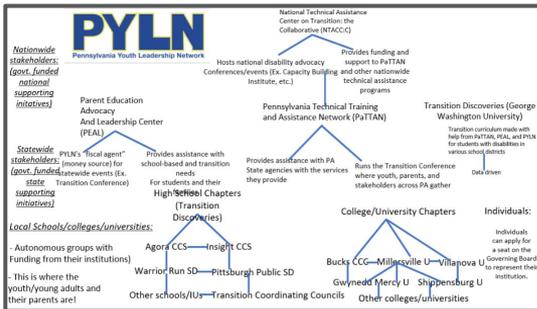


Featured Projects

Made for Youth by Youth

- Christians Infographic
- Kylee's Bookmark and SLIEP Booklet
- Max's Boys and Girls Club inspired Safe Hands Project

PYLN



9. Q&A QUESTIONS:

10. WHAT ARE YOUR NEXT STEPS:

RESOURCES:

GET RESOURCES TO HELP, FOR EXAMPLE:

<https://www.imdofirmind.org/>
<https://sites.google.com/ovatin.net/slief/>

HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES:

<https://vimeo.com/34206383>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wFBLHyxmf6w>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HX0Ua8xABXQ>
<https://vimeo.com/165416924>

KYLEE'S TIPS & TOOLS FOR S.L.I.E.P.

Kylee Diaz is the Youth Ambassador for Colonial Intermediate Unit 20. You can email her at kdiaz1@ciu20.org

1. KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

- You have the right to attend and participate in your IEP meeting wherever Transition is being discussed
- That means from age 13/14 until you graduate, you must be invited to your IEP meeting

2. THINK ABOUT YOUR GOALS AHEAD OF TIME

- Have an idea of what you want your future to look like after you graduate. For example, Do you want to attend college? Do you want to learn a trade? Do you want to go right to work? Where do you want to live? Do you want to get a driver's license?

Write down your ideas for:

Post-Secondary: _____

Employment: _____

Independent Living: _____



TIPS FOR STUDENTS

To Help in IEP Meetings
by Kylee Diaz, CIU20 Youth Ambassador

HAVE A GOAL IN MIND

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

REVIEW YOUR IEP BEFORE THE MEETING

BE OPEN AND POSITIVE

ASK QUESTIONS

TAKE NOTES

SPEAK UP

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

GET RESOURCES TO HELP

How can I Stay Connected?

- Reach out to pyln.gb@gmail.com for best connection!
- Regular virtual youth meetings on the first Monday of every month.
 - Our next youth meeting will be on Monday, February 2nd from 4pm-5pm
 - Our next adult ally meeting will be on Wednesday February 18th from 9am-10am
- We are currently working on making updates to the website and social media platforms
 - Instagram: [@thepylvn](https://www.instagram.com/thepylvn)
 - Facebook: [Pennsylvania Youth Leadership Network \(PYLN\)](https://www.facebook.com/PennsylvaniaYouthLeadershipNetwork)
 - Website: www.pyln.org

