

# **YOUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **PUBLIC AND PARENTAL INFORMATION NOTICE**

### **❖ SCREENING AND EVALUATION SERVICES FOR SCHOOL-AGE EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN**

The Yough School District provides a free, appropriate public education to exceptional students. To qualify as an exceptional student the child must be of school age, in need of specially-designed instruction and meet the eligibility criteria for mentally gifted and/or one or more of the following physical or mental disabilities, as set forth in the Pennsylvania State standards: autism, blindness/visual impairment, mental retardation, multiple disabilities, other health impairment, serious emotional disturbance, specific learning disability and speech/language impairment, deaf-blindness, orthopedic impairment, hearing impairment (including deafness).

The district engages in identification procedures to ensure that eligible students receive an appropriate educational program consisting of special education and related services, individualized to meet the student needs. At no cost to the parent, these services are provided in compliance with state and federal law and are reasonably calculated to yield meaningful educational benefit and student progress.

To identify students who may be eligible for special education, various screening activities are conducted on an ongoing basis. These screening activities include: review of group-based data, cumulative records, enrollment records, health records, report cards, ability and achievement test scores; hearing, vision, physical and speech/language screening; and review by the Multidisciplinary Evaluation Team. When screening results suggest that a student might be exceptional, the district seeks parental consent to conduct a multidisciplinary evaluation.

Parents who suspect their child is exceptional may request a multidisciplinary evaluation at any time through a written request to the building principal.

Services designed to meet the needs of exceptional students include the annual development of the Individualized Education Program (IEP), bi-annual and tri-annual multidisciplinary reevaluation, support intervention in the regular class, supplemental intervention in the regular class or in the special education resource program, placement in a part-time or full-time special education class in a regular school or placement in a full-time class in another location other than the regular school. The extent of special education services and the location for the delivery of such services are determined by the IEP team and are based on the student's identified needs and abilities, chronological age and the level of intensity of the specific intervention. The district also provides related services, such as transportation, physical and occupational therapy required for the student to benefit from the special education program.

Parents may obtain additional information regarding special education programs and services and due process rights by contacting the child's school principal or calling the central office at 724-446-7272.

## ❖ SERVICES FOR STUDENTS IN NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS

The district makes public special education accessible to resident students attending nonpublic schools. These students are permitted to enroll on a part-time, dual enrollment basis in a program of special education operated in the public school.

Special education programs are accessible to nonpublic school students through dual enrollment following multidisciplinary team evaluation and the development of an IEP.

Parents of nonpublic school students who suspect their child is exceptional and in need of special education may request a multidisciplinary evaluation through a written request to the superintendent or the Westmoreland Intermediate Unit #7 Nonpublic School Supervisor at 724-836-2460 or 1-800-327-9487. The dual enrollment process is handled through the building principal.

## ❖ SERVICES FOR PROTECTED HANDICAPPED STUDENTS

In compliance with state and federal law, the Yough School District will provide protected handicapped students services or accommodations which are needed to provide equal opportunity to participate in and obtain benefits from the school program and extracurricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate to the student's abilities. These related aides are provided without discrimination or cost to the student and family. In order to qualify as a protected handicapped student, the child must be of school age with a mental or physical disability that substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to an aspect of the school program.

Services and protections for protected handicapped students are distinct from those that are applicable to exceptional students enrolled in or seeking enrollment in special programs.

For further information about protected handicapped students, contact the building principal or central office at 724-446-7272.

## ❖ PRE-SCHOOL SERVICES

Act 212, the Early Intervention Services System, entitles all pre-school children with disabilities to appropriate early intervention services. Young children experiencing developmental delays, physical or mental disabilities and their families are eligible for early intervention services. At-risk children are eligible for screening and tracking. The Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning is responsible for providing services to infants and toddlers, defined as children from birth to two years of age. For information contact Westmoreland Casemanagement & Supports, Inc. 724- 837-8290. The Pennsylvania Department of Education is responsible for providing services to pre-school children from ages 3 thru 5. For information contact Westmoreland Intermediate Unit, EI Program 724- 836-2460 or 1-800-327-9487.

## ❖ CONFIDENTIALITY OF STUDENT RECORDS

The privacy rights of parents and students is mandated by federal legislation known as the Family Educational Rights of Privacy Act of 1974 (Buckley Amendment), state regulations (Chapter 14 – Student Rights and Responsibilities), and district policy. The different categories of information maintained by the school district are: educational and health records, personally identifiable information, and directory information. With the exception of receiving school districts, educational and health records, and personally identifiable information cannot be

disclosed or released without parent consent if a student is eighteen years old without their consent. Information known as directory information can be released without consent. Directory information means information which would be considered not harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. This information includes: student's name, address, date and place of birth, courses taken, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received and the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student. Written parental, or a student age eighteen or older, request is required for the disclosure of educational and health records, and personally identifiable information. The consent must: specify the records that may be disclosed, purpose of the disclosure, identify the party to whom the disclosure may be made. A written record of the disclosure must be maintained by the school district. Informational access and school records are available to parents, their representative, and to students eighteen years of age or older.

#### ❖ **NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT**

It is the policy of the Yough School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, national origin, age, handicap, or limited English proficiency in its educational programs, services, facilities, activities, or employment policies as required by Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments, Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, Section 504 Regulations of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Section 204 Regulations of the 1984 Carl D. Perkins Act or any applicable Federal statute. For information regarding programs, services, activities, and facilities that are accessible to and usable by handicapped persons; or for inquiries regarding civil right compliance, contact: the Yough School District or the Director of the Office of Civil Rights, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington, D.C.

This information has been prepared by the Yough School District to provide parents and/or guardians information about special education service which are available throughout the school district and procedure for accessing these services. Any questions regarding this information or options which may be available to students should be directed to the building principal or guidance counselor.