

ANNUAL PUBLIC NOTICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AND PROGRAMS, SERVICES FOR GIFTED STUDENTS, AND SERVICES FOR PROTECTED HANDICAPPED STUDENTS

Notice to Parents

According to state and federal special education regulations, annual public notice to parents of children who reside within a school district is required regarding child find responsibilities. School districts and intermediate units are required to conduct child find activities for children who may be eligible for services via Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For additional information related to Section 504/ Chapter 15 services, the parent may refer to Section 504, Chapter 15, and the Basic Education Circular entitled Implementation of Chapter 15. Also, school districts are required to conduct child find activities for children who may be eligible for gifted services via 22 PA Code Chapter 16. For additional information regarding gifted services, the parent may refer to 22 PA Code Chapter 16. If a student is both gifted and eligible for Special Education, the procedures in IDEA and Chapter 14 shall take precedence.

This notice shall inform parents throughout the school district and intermediate unit of the child identification activities and of the procedures followed to ensure confidentiality of information pertaining to students with disabilities or eligible young children. In addition to this public notice, each school district and intermediate unit shall publish written information in the handbook and on the website. Children ages three through twenty-one can be eligible for special education programs and services. If parents believe that the child may be eligible for special education, the parent should contact their district of residence. Contact information is listed at the end of this public notice.

Children age three through the age of admission to first grade are also eligible if they have developmental delays and, as a result, need Special Education and related services. Developmental delay is defined as a child who is less than the age of beginners and at least three years of age and is considered to have a developmental delay when one of the following exists: (i) The child's score, on a developmental assessment device, on an assessment instrument which yields a score in months, indicates that the child is delayed by 25% of the child's chronological age in one or more developmental areas, or (ii) The child is delayed in one or more of the developmental areas, as documented by test performance of 1.5 standard deviations below the mean on standardized tests. Developmental areas include cognitive, communicative, physical, social/emotional and self-help. For additional information, contact the intermediate unit. Contact information is listed at the end of this public notice.

Evaluation Process

Each school district and intermediate unit has a procedure in place by which parents can request an evaluation. For information about procedures applicable to your child, contact the school which your child attends. Parents of preschool age children, age three through five, may request an evaluation in writing by addressing a letter to the Early Intervention Program Administrator, Westmoreland Intermediate Unit, 102 Equity Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601-7190.

Consent

School entities cannot proceed with an evaluation or with the initial provision of special education and related services without the written consent of the parents. For additional information related to consent, please refer to the Procedural Safeguards Notice which can be found at the PaTTAN website, www.pattan.net. Once written parental consent is obtained, the district will proceed with the evaluation process. If the parent disagrees with the evaluation, the parent can request an independent educational evaluation at public expense.

Program Development

Once the evaluation process is completed, a team of qualified professionals and the parents determine whether the child is eligible. If the child is eligible, the individualized education program (IEP) team meets, develops the program, and determines the educational placement. Once the IEP team develops the program and determines the educational placement, school district staff or intermediate unit staff will issue a notice of recommended educational placement/prior written notice. Your written consent is required before initial services can be provided. The parent has the right to revoke consent after initial placement.

Confidentiality of Information

The school districts and to some extent the intermediate unit maintain records concerning children enrolled in the school, including students with disabilities. All records are maintained in the strictest confidentiality. Your consent, or consent of an eligible child who has reached the age of majority under State law, must be obtained before personally identifiable information is released, except as permitted under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The age of majority in Pennsylvania is 21. Each participating agency must protect the confidentiality of personally identifiable information at collection, storage, disclosure, and destruction states. One official at each participating agency must assume responsibility for ensuring the confidentiality of any personally identifiable information. Each participating agency must maintain, for public inspection, a current listing of the names and positions of those employees within the agency who have access to personally identifiable information.

For additional information related to student records, the parent can refer to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

This notice is only a summary of the Special Education services, evaluation and screening activities, and rights and protections pertaining to children with disabilities, children thought to be disabled, and their parents. For more information or to request evaluation or screening of a public or private school child, contact your local school district. For preschool age children, information, screenings and evaluations requested, may be obtained by contacting the intermediate unit.

The school district or intermediate unit will not discriminate in employment, educational programs, or activities based on race, color, national origin, age, sex, handicap, creed, marital status or because a person is a disabled veteran or a veteran of the Vietnam era. No preschool, elementary or secondary school pupil enrolled in a school district or intermediate unit shall be denied equal opportunity to participate in age and program appropriate instruction or activities due to race, color, handicap, creed, national origin, marital status or financial hardship.



Belle Vernon Area School District Dayna Sikora, School Psychologist 270 Crest Avenue, Belle Vernon, PA 15012 724-808-2500, ext. 1103	Monessen City School District Tiffany Jamieson, Supervisor of Special Education 1275 Rostraver Street, Monessen, PA 15062 724-684-7862
Derry Area School District Dr. Kathy Perry, LEA 982 North Chestnut Street Ext. Derry, PA 15627	Mt. Pleasant Area School District Anthony DeMaro, Assistant Superintendent 271 State Street, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666 724-547-4100
Franklin Regional School District Mr. Richard Regelski, Director of Special Education 3210 School Road, Murrysville, PA 15668 724-327-5456, ext. 7615	New Kensington-Arnold School District Shaun Sperl, Coordinator of Pupil Services 707 Stevenson Boulevard, New Kensington, PA 15068 724-337-4536, ext. 1132
Greater Latrobe School District Dr. Lucinda Solys, Director of Pupil Personnel 1816 Lincoln Ave., Latrobe, PA 15650-1598 724-539-4213	Norwin School District Margaret F. Zimmer, Director of Special Education/Student Services Norwin Administration Building 281 McMahon Drive, North Huntingdon, PA 15642 724-861-3037
Greensburg Salem School District Todd McMillen, Coordinator of Student Services 1 Academy Hill Place, Greensburg, PA 15601 724-832-2913	Penn-Trafford School District Gregory N. Karaszia, Director of Special Education/Student Services 1006 Harrison City/Export Rd., Harrison City, PA 15636 724-744-4496
Hempfield Area School District Jeffery Coover, Director of Student Services 4347 Route 136, Greensburg, PA 15601 724-850-2229	Southmoreland School District Ronald Heitchue, Psychologist/LEA 200 Scottie Way Scottdale, PA 15683 724-887-2009
Jeannette City School District Stuart J. Albaugh, Director of Student Services 800 Florida Avenue., Jeannette, PA 15644 724-523-5497, ext. 1008	Yough School District Dawn Hildenbrand, Director of Special Education 915 Lowber Road, Hermie, PA 15637 724-446-7272, ext. 1004
Early Intervention Brandi Binakosky, Administrator Westmoreland Intermediate Unit 102 Equity Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601 724-836-2460, ext. 2312	Westmoreland Intermediate Unit # 7 Student Services Director 102 Equity Drive Greensburg, PA 15601 724-836-2460