

## EQUITABLE PARTICIPATION (EP) SERVICES

In Pennsylvania, the Intermediate Unit (IU) is the agency responsible for the implementation of the federal requirement for EP.

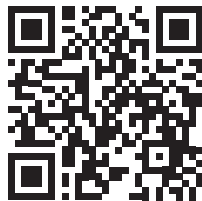
EP requires that each IU, following a federal funding calculation, must expend a designated amount of federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funds on services and/or resources for students identified as eligible for special education services whose parents have unilaterally chosen to place them in a private school. The IU is not required to offer the same services that would be offered as a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) in the public school.

The IU is mandated to offer those services as determined by their annual consultation with their private school representatives and representatives of parents of parentally placed private school children with disabilities.



## SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN YOUR AREA

For additional information or questions, feel free to contact the IU in which your private school is located or the school district in which you live, as listed on the IU's website. Please scan the QR code below or visit the IU's website to access a list of school districts in your area.



### CONTACT YOUR INTERMEDIATE UNIT:

Riverview IU6  
<https://tinyurl.com/IU6districts>



(814) 226-7103



270 Mayfield Road  
Clarion, PA 16214



<https://www.riu6.org/>



# EQUITABLE PARTICIPATION

## for Children Who Are Parentally Placed in Private School

Information About Special Education Services

## DOES YOUR CHILD ATTEND A PRIVATE OR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL?

Is your child struggling with academics and/or behavior?



**If you believe your child may have a disability and may be in need of special education services,**

an evaluation process to assess your child's needs is available at no cost from the intermediate unit in which your private school is located or through your area school district. Special education often involves adapting materials and modifying instruction to better meet your child's specific learning needs.

If you request these services, your child will receive an evaluation from a team of experts trained in assessing children. This team will determine whether your child has a disability and if so, is in need of special education.

**You are an important member of your child's evaluation team.**



## WILL YOU CONSENT TO AN EVALUATION?

Before the the IU or the school district proceeds with an evaluation,

you will be notified in writing of the specific types of tests and procedures the evaluator plans to use, and of your rights throughout this process. The evaluation cannot be scheduled until you sign the written notice, indicating that you consent to the proposed testing and assessments, and return the notice to the IU or the school district.

**Certain services are available to students identified as eligible for special education who are unilaterally placed by their parents in private schools through a federal requirement called Equitable Participation (EP).**

**Your child has a disability and is in need of special education.**

What are your options?

### OPTION 1:

If you, the parent/guardian, choose to keep your child enrolled in a private school, your child is now eligible for Equitable Participation (EP) services. The principal and the intermediate unit staff, will discuss EP services with you.

### OPTION 2:

Your public school can provide a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) through an Individualized Education Program (IEP). You must sign a release before the IU is permitted to share any information with the public school. The public school team will then work with you, as a team member, if you are seeking FAPE. You must enroll your child in the public school to receive these services.