

Carlynton School District

Child Find and Annual Notice to Parents

NOTICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES & PROGRAMS

Each school district, along with other public agencies in the commonwealth, must establish and implement procedures to identify, locate and evaluate all children who need special education programs and services because of the child's disability. This notice is to help find these children, offer assistance to parents, and describes the parents' rights with regard to confidentiality of information that will be obtained during this process. The content of this notice has been written in English but can be translated into other languages. If a person does not understand any of this notice, he or she should contact the school district (412-429-2500) and request an explanation.

IDENTIFICATION ACTIVITIES

Carlynton School District provides free, appropriate public education to eligible students. To qualify as an eligible student, the child must be of school age, in need of specially designed instruction and meet the eligibility criteria for one or more of the following physical or mental disabilities, as set forth in the Pennsylvania State Regulations: Autism, Deaf-Blindness, Deafness, Emotional Disturbance, Hearing Impairment, Intellectual Disability, Multiple Disabilities, Orthopedic Impairment, Other Health Impairment, Specific Learning Disability, Speech or Language Impairment, Traumatic Brain Injury, or Visual Impairment including Blindness. Information regarding the appropriate developmental milestone descriptors for infants and toddlers may be found at the Center for Disease Control website at www.cdc.gov (<http://www.cdc.gov>) or The National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHCY) website at www.parentcenterhub.org (<http://www.parentcenterhub.org>)

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 student needs. At no cost to the parents, these services are provided in compliance with state and federal laws 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 on-going basis. These screening activities include: review of group-based data; hearing, vision, physical, and speech/language screening; and review by building-level intervention teams. When screening results suggest that a student might be a student with a disability, the school district seeks parental consent to conduct a multidisciplinary evaluation.

Parents who suspect that their child is eligible for special education services may request a multidisciplinary evaluation at any time through a written request to their Building Principal.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF STUDENT RECORDS

Carlynton School District maintains records concerning all 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. Carlynton School District protects the confidentiality of personally identifiable information at the collection, storage, disclosure, and destruction stages. Carlynton School District maintains, 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 an evaluation or screening of a public or private school child, contact:

Dr. Patricia Serdy
Director of Student Services
Carlynton School District
435 Kings Highway
Carnegie, PA 15106
412-429-2500 x3309

SERVICES FOR PROTECTED HANDICAPPED STUDENTS (504)

Students who are not eligible to receive special education programs and services may qualify as protected handicapped students and, therefore, be protected by other federal and state laws intended to prevent discrimination. The school district must ensure that protected handicapped students have an equal opportunity to participate in the school program and extracurricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate for the individual student. In compliance with state and federal law, the school district will provide to each protected handicapped student, without discrimination or cost to the student or family, those related aids, services or accommodations which are needed to provide equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits of the school program and extracurricular activities, to the maximum extent appropriate to the student's abilities. In order to qualify as a protected handicapped student, the child must be of school-age with a physical or mental disability which substantially limits or prohibits participation in, or access to, an aspect of the school program.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES FOR PRE-SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS

In Pennsylvania, a child between 3 years of age and the school district's age to begin school who has a developmental delay or one or more of the physical or mental conditions listed above is identified as an "eligible young child." The parents of these children have the same rights described above. The Pennsylvania Department of Education is responsible for providing programs and services to eligible young children under Act 212 of 1990, the Early Intervention Services System Act. Screening for preschool children is available through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit #3. For more information, contact the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's Preschool Early Intervention Program at 412-394-5904

Potential signs of developmental delay and other risk factors that could indicate disabilities and the possibility that a child is an "eligible young child" could include:

- By the age of 3: not saying many words; not using 2 or 3-word phrases and sentences; not walking; awkward gait (walking); drooling; not answering "show" or "what" questions; and/or not using utensils to feed self;
- By age of 4 (all of the above included): not toilet trained; difficulty with directional words (in, on, under, out); not playing with other children, not able to draw a circle, cross or imitate a vertical line; not able to understand the child's speech most of the time; difficulty following simple two-step directions (e.g., pick up the paper and put it in the garbage);
- By the age of 5 (all of the above included): unable to answer "where" questions; unable to recall details from a story; not drawing a person with at least 6 parts; immature speech patterns (me instead of I), not able to hop forward with one foot without support;
- Other warning signs at any age: little or no eye contact, over/under sensitivities to pain, light, noise; hand flapping; no awareness of space (always bumping into other people or things); awkward hand or foot positioning; won't touch or eat certain textures; child no longer can do things he/she used to do; developed normally, then stopped; echoes what is said; plays with toys inappropriately (e.g., watches wheels spin on the car, but does not play with the car).

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL)

The education of students whose dominant language is not English is the responsibility of every school district/charter school in Pennsylvania. English language learners must be enrolled upon presentation of a local address and proof of immunization. The school district/charter school must administer a home language survey (HLS) to all students as required by the Office for Civil Rights (OCR). The results of that survey must be retained in the student's permanent folder. For those students whose primary home language is other than English (PHLOTE), the district must also determine the student's English language proficiency. Then, if appropriate, ESL instruction will be provided for the limited English proficient student with local/state funds.

The Carlynton School District will provide ongoing screening services. If you wish to learn more, have questions, or believe your child may need to be identified, please contact:

Dr. Julie Franczyk
Principal

Carnegie Elementary
Carlynton School District
301 Franklin Avenue
Carnegie, PA 15106
412-429-2500 x3336

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE MENTALLY GIFTED

The Carlynton School District provides for mentally gifted students using the conceptual framework of continuous progress through the District's mainstream curriculum. This curriculum includes alternatives to provide opportunities for different learning styles. The central consideration for the education of gifted students is to provide appropriate educational opportunities commensurate with capabilities. If you believe your school-age child may meet the criteria of mental giftedness and demonstrates a need for gifted education you may contact in writing your child's Building Principal.

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS IN NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS

Special education programs and services are accessible to resident students attending non-public schools. These students are afforded the opportunity to enroll on a part-time, dual enrollment basis in a special education program operated within the District. Special education services are accessible following a multi-disciplinary team evaluation, determination of eligibility, and development of an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Parents of nonpublic school students may obtain further information by contacting the Carlynton School District Pupil Services Department at 412-429-2500.

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS IDENTIFIED AS HOMELESS AND/OR FOSTER CARE

The Carlynton School District follows all protections outlined in the McKinney Vento Homeless Education Act related to ensuring that any child identified as homeless or in foster care has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education as provided to other children. The District implements child find activities for other students in addition to those identified as homeless or in foster care such as wards of the state, highly mobile children, and migrant children in order to provide equal access to evaluations and services. Further information may be obtained by contacting the Carlynton School District Pupil Services Department at 412-429-2500.