



Annual Public Notice of Special Education Identification Programs, Services, Child Find Activities, Gifted Education, and Confidentiality of Student Records

The Minersville Area School District is committed to fostering an inclusive educational environment and ensuring that all students with disabilities and special needs can fully participate in the educational experience. Pennsylvania schools offer no-cost evaluations and programs to eligible students with disabilities, ages 3 through 21. The Minersville Area School District, in collaboration with Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29, provides a comprehensive range of special education services tailored to the unique needs of each child. The District is committed to providing a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Chapter 14 of the Pennsylvania School Code, and other applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

Children who may be eligible for special education services include those identified with one or more of the following disabilities: Autism, Deaf-Blindness, Emotional Disturbance, Hearing Impairment including Deafness, Intellectual Disability, Multiple Disabilities, Orthopedic Impairment, Other Health Impairment, Specific Learning Disability, Speech or Language Impairment, Traumatic Brain Injury, Visual Impairment including Blindness, and Developmental Delay for children ages 3 through the age of admission to a school-age program.

Screening and Evaluation Process / Child Find

The Minersville Area School District has procedures in place to help identify children who may be eligible for special education and related services. The District conducts ongoing child find activities to locate, identify, and evaluate children who may be in need of special education and related services. Child find activities are conducted for all children residing within the District's jurisdiction, including:

- children enrolled in Minersville Area School District schools
- preschool-age children
- children who are homeless
- children who are wards of the state
- children with disabilities enrolled by their parents in private schools
- highly mobile children, including migrant children

Screening and Evaluation Continued

The screening and evaluation process includes procedures for potential speech, hearing, and vision needs, as well as referrals for a comprehensive educational evaluation. If a parent or guardian believes that their child may be eligible for special education and related services, they may request screening or evaluation at any time at no cost to the family. Parents, guardians, caregivers, teachers, private school representatives, agency staff, shelter staff, and other concerned persons who suspect that a child may have a disability may contact the District to request screening or to make a referral for consideration of an evaluation. Requests for school-age children should be directed to the District special education contact person listed at the

conclusion of this notice. Requests for preschool-age children may also be directed to Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29 Early Intervention Preschool.

Students who are evaluated for special education eligibility will undergo a thorough evaluation and may qualify for a wide range of services designed to address specific disability categories. Related services may also be provided when necessary to support a child's educational program.

Services for Protected Handicapped Students

Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Minersville Area School District provides services to protected handicapped students and may not discriminate against such students. A protected handicapped student is a student who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, has a record of such an impairment, or is regarded as having such an impairment. A protected handicapped student may qualify for accommodations, services, and supports designed to ensure equal opportunity to participate in the school program, including extracurricular activities, to the maximum extent appropriate for the individual student.

Gifted Education Services

The Minersville Area School District, in accordance with Chapter 16 of the Pennsylvania Code, offers specially designed instruction for students who have been evaluated and identified as mentally gifted. These services include specially designed programs or support services that are not ordinarily provided in the regular education program. The District uses multiple criteria, including IQ score and other relevant educational data, to identify students with gifted ability who may require specially designed instruction. Mental giftedness is defined in the Pennsylvania

Gifted Education Guidelines as outstanding intellectual and creative ability, the development of which requires specially designed programs or support services, or both, not ordinarily provided in the regular education program.

Early Intervention Services

Children ages 3 through 5 who may experience developmental delays, including physical and/or mental disabilities, and their families may be eligible for early intervention services provided by Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29. These services include screening and evaluation procedures, educational programs, related services, and information for families, including consultation and referral to community agencies when appropriate, at no cost to the family. To obtain additional information regarding early intervention services, please contact Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29 Early Intervention Preschool at 570-544-9131 ext. 1222.

Early intervention services for infants and toddlers from birth to age 3 are the responsibility of the Commonwealth's early intervention system. To obtain additional information regarding services for children from birth to age 3, please contact Services Access and Management Inc. at (570) 621-2700.

Confidentiality of Student Records

The Minersville Area School District is required to protect the confidentiality of personally identifiable information of students in accordance with federal and state law and regulations. Parents and eligible students have the right to inspect and review educational records, request amendment of records believed to be inaccurate or misleading, consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information except where disclosure is authorized without consent by law, and file a complaint if they believe their rights have been violated.

The District provides annual notice of the procedures it follows regarding the storage, disclosure to third parties, retention, and destruction of personally identifiable information collected, maintained, or used in connection with the provision of special education services. Additional information regarding these procedures is available upon request.

District Contact Information

Requests for screening, evaluation, records, or additional information should be directed to:

Jill Atkinson

Special Education Director

Minersville Area School District

40 High School Lane

Pottsville, PA 17901

jatkinson@battlinminers.com

570-544-1400 ext. 2217

For preschool-age children, additional information may be obtained from:

Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29 Early Intervention Preschool

570-544-9131 ext. 1222