

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. Special Education services can be provided to eligible children who are ages three through twenty-one. 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 aged 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 Riverview Intermediate Unit Early Intervention Department at (814) 297-5128.

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 Director, Riverview Intermediate Unit; 270 Mayfield Road, Clarion, PA 16214.

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.

Disposal of State Assessments

The Pennsylvania Department of Education ("PDE") will destroy or have destroyed all test booklets for the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment ("PSSA"), Keystone Exams, and Pennsylvania Alternative System of Assessment ("PASA") one year from the date on which student results are delivered. PDE will also destroy or have destroyed all answer booklets for the PSSA and Keystone exams and all media recordings for the PASA three years from the date on which the assessment is completed.

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 the responsible entity listed. 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.

INTERMEDIATE UNIT

Riverview Intermediate Unit

270 Mayfield Road
Clarion, PA 16214
814-297-5105

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Allegheny-Clarion Valley

776 State Route 58,
P.O. Box 100
Foxburg, PA 16036
724-659-5820

Brockway Area

40 North Street
Brockway, PA 15824
814-265-8411

Brookville Area

104 Jenks Street,
P.O. Box 479
Brookville, PA 15825
814-849-1100

Clarion Area

221 Liberty Street
Clarion, PA 16214
814-226-6110

Clarion County Career Center

447 Career Lane
Shippensburg, PA 16254
814-226-4391

Clarion-Limestone Area

Clarion-Limestone Area
4091 C-L School Road
Strattanville, PA 16258
814-764-5111

Cranberry Area

3 Education Drive
Seneca, PA 16346
814-676-5628

DuBois Area

500 Liberty Blvd.
DuBois, PA 15801
814-371-2700

Forest Area

22318 Route 62
Tionesta, PA 16353
814-755-4491

Franklin Area

40 Knights Way
Franklin, PA 16323
814-432-2121

Jeff Tech

576 Vo-Tech Road
Reynoldsville, PA 15851
814-653-8265

Keystone

451 Huston Avenue
Knox, PA 16232
814-797-5921

North Clarion County

10439 Route 36
Tionesta, PA 16353
814-744-8536

Oil City Area

825 Grandview Road
Oil City, PA 16301
814-676-1867

Punxsutawney Area

300 Center Street
Punxsutawney, PA 15767
814-938-5151

Redbank Valley

920 Broad Street
New Bethlehem, PA 16242
814-275-2426

Titusville Area

301 Spruce Street
Titusville, PA 16354
814-827-2715

Union

354 Baker Street, Suite 2
Rimersburg, PA 16248
814-473-6311

Valley Grove

389 Sugarcreek Drive
Franklin, PA 16323
814-432-4919

Venango Technology Center

1 Vo-Tech Drive
Oil City, PA 16301
814-677-3097