

Public Notices**Public Notices****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 (SDs), intermediate units (IUs) and charter schools (CSs) 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, intermediate unit, and charter school 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, intermediate unit, and charter school shall publish written information in the handbook and on the web site. 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 the appropriate school district or charter school identified 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 3 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. (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 of standardized tests. Developmental areas include cognitive, communicative, physical, social/emotional and self-help. For additional information you may contact the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit.

Evaluation Process

Each school district, intermediate unit, and charter school 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. Telephone numbers and addresses can be found at the end of this notice. Parents of preschool age children, age three through five, may request an evaluation in writing by addressing a letter to the intermediate unit.

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 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 education evaluation at public expense.

Program Development

Once the evaluation process is completed, a team of qualified professional and parents determine whether the child is eligible. If the child is eligible, the individualized education program team meets, develops the program, and determines the educational placement. Once the IEP team develops the program and determines the education placement, school district staff, intermediate unit staff, or charter school 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 SDs, IUs and CSs maintain 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. Each participating agency must protect the confidentiality of personally identifiable information at collection, storage, disclosure, and destruction stages. 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 the responsible school entity listed below. For preschool children, information, screenings and evaluations requested, may be obtained by contacting the Intermediate Unit. The addresses of these schools are as follows:

Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit
147 Poplar Avenue
Monaca, PA 15061
724-774-7800

SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICES

Alliquippa School District
800 21st Street
Alliquippa, PA 15001
724-857-7500
Beaver Area School District
1300 Fifth Street
Beaver, PA 15009
724-774-0250

Blackhawk School District
500 Blackhawk Road
Beaver Falls, PA 15010
724-846-6600
Freedom Area School District
1702 School Street
Freedom, PA 15042

724-775-5464
Midland Borough School District
173 Seventh Street
Midland, PA 15059
724-843-8650
Riverside Beaver County School District
318 Country Club Drive
Ellwood City, PA 16117
724-758-7512
South Side Area School District
4949 State Route 151
Hookstown, PA 15050
724-573-9581

Baden Academy Charter School
1016 State Street
Baden, PA 15005
1-855-590-2227

PA Cybar Charter School
652 Midland Avenue
Midland, PA 15059
724-643-1180

The school entity or charter school will not discriminate in employment, education 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, intermediate unit, or charter school program 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.

Ambridge Area School District
901 Duss Avenue
Ambridge, PA 15003
724-266-2833

Big Beaver Falls Area School District
1503 8th Avenue
Beaver Falls, PA 15010
724-843-7470

Central Valley School District
160 Baker Road Extension
Monaca, PA 15061
724-775-5600

Hopewell Area School District
2354 Brodhead Road
Alliquippa, PA 15001

724-375-6691
New Brighton Area School District
3225 43rd Street
New Brighton, PA 15066
724-843-1795

Rochester Area School District
540 Reno Street
Rochester, PA 15074
724-775-7500

Western Beaver County School District
343 Ridgmont Drive
Midland, PA 15059
724-643-9310

CHARTER SCHOOL OFFICES

Lincoln Park Performing Arts Charter School
One Lincoln Park
Midland, PA 15059
724-643-9004

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