

# **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:

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 Allegheny Intermediate Unit.

## **Screening and Risk Factors**

The Allegheny Intermediate Unit supports school districts in providing a 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: Specific Learning Disability, Emotionally Disturbed, Autism/Pervasive Developmental Disorder, Blindness/Visual Impairment, Deaf-blindness, Deafness, Hearing Impairment, Intellectual Disability, Multiple Disabilities, Orthopedic Impairment, Neurological Impairment, Other Health Impairment and Speech and Language Impairment. 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). Identification activities are performed to find a child who is suspected as having a disability that would interfere with his or her learning unless special education programs and services are made available. These activities are sometimes called screening activities. The activities may vary from district to district but can include: review of group data, conducting hearing and vision screening, assessment of student's academic functioning, observation of the student displaying difficulty in behavior and determining the student's

response to attempted remediation. Input from parents is also an information source for identification. After a child is identified as a child with a possible disability, he or she is evaluated, but not before parents give permission for their child to be evaluated

### **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](http://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 School Districts, Intermediate Units and Charter Schools 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:

**INTERMEDIATE UNIT**

Allegheny Intermediate Unit  
475 East Waterfront Drive  
Homestead, PA 15120  
(412)394-5700

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICES**

Allegheny Valley School District 300 Pearl Avenue Cheswick, PA 15024 724-274-5300	Avonworth School District 358 Josephs Lane Pittsburgh, PA 15237 412-369-8738
Baldwin-Whitehall School District 4900 Curry Road Pittsburgh, PA 15236 412-884-6300	Bethel Park School District 301 Church Road Bethel Park, PA 15102 412-833-5000
Brentwood Borough School District 3601 Brownsville Road Pittsburgh, PA 15227 412-881-2227	Carlynton School District 435 Kings Highway Carnegie, PA 15106 412-429-2500
Chartiers Valley School District 2030 Swallow Hill Road Pittsburgh, PA 15220 412-429-2201	Clairton City School District 502 Mitchell Avenue Clairton, PA 15025 412-233-7090
Cornell School District 1099 Maple Street Coraopolis, PA 15108 412-264-5010	Deer Lakes School District 19 East Union Road Cheswick, PA 15024 724-265-5300
Duquesne City School District 300 Kennedy Avenue Duquesne, PA 15110 412-466-5300	East Allegheny School District 1150 Jacks Run Road, Route 48 North Versailles, PA 15137 412-824-8012
Elizabeth Forward School District 401 Rock Run Road, Suite 2 Elizabeth, PA 15037 412-896-2300	Fox Chapel Area School District 611 Field Club Road Pittsburgh, PA 15238 412-963-9600
Gateway School District 9000 Gateway Campus Blvd. Monroeville, PA 15146 412-372-5300	Hampton Township School District 4591 School Drive Allison Park, PA 15101 412-486-6000
Highlands School District 1500 Pacific Avenue, P.O. Box 288 Natrona Heights, PA 15065 724-226-2400	Keystone Oaks School District 1000 Kelton Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15216 412-571-6000

<p>McKeesport Area School District 3590 O'Neil Blvd. McKeesport, PA 15132 412-664-3612</p>	<p>Montour School District 225 Clever Road McKees Rocks, PA 15136 412-490-6500</p>
<p>Moon Area School District 8353 University Blvd. Moon Township, PA 15108 412-264-9440</p>	<p>Mt. Lebanon School District 7 Horsman Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15228 412-344-2000</p>
<p>North Allegheny School District 200 Hillvue Lane Pittsburgh, PA 15237 412-366-2100</p>	<p>North Hills School District 135 Sixth Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15229 412-318-1000</p>
<p>Northgate School District 591 Union Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15202 412-732-3300</p>	<p>Penn Hills School District 260 Aster Street Pittsburgh, PA 15235 412-793-7000</p>
<p>Pine-Richland School District 702 Warrendale Road Gibsonia, PA 15044 724-625-7773</p>	<p>Plum Borough School District 900 Elicker Road Plum, PA 15239 412-795-0100</p>
<p>Quaker Valley School District 100 Leetsdale Industrial Drive, Suite B Leetsdale, PA 15056 412-749-3600</p>	<p>Riverview School District 701 Tenth Street Oakmont, PA 15139 412-828-1800</p>
<p>Shaler Area School District 1800 Mt. Royal Blvd. Glenshaw, PA 15116 412-492-1200</p>	<p>South Allegheny School District 2743 Washington Blvd. McKeesport, PA 15133 412-675-3070</p>
<p>South Fayette Township School District 3680 Old Oakdale Road McDonald, PA 15057 412-221-4542</p>	<p>South Park School District 2005 Eagle Ridge Road South Park, PA 15129 412-655-3111</p>
<p>Steel Valley School District 220 East Oliver Road Munhall, PA 15120 412-464-3600</p>	<p>Sto-Rox School District 600 Russellwood Avenue McKees Rocks, PA 15136 412-771-3213</p>
<p>Upper St. Clair School District 1820 McLaughlin Run Road Upper St. Clair, PA 15241 412-833-1600</p>	<p>West Allegheny School District P.O. Box 55 Imperial, PA 15126 724-695-3422</p>
<p>West Jefferson Hills School District 835 Old Clairton Road Jefferson Hills, PA 15025 412-655-8450</p>	<p>West Mifflin Area School District 1020 Lebanon Road, Suite 250 West Mifflin, PA 15122 412-466-9131</p>

Wilkinsburg Borough School District 718 Wallace Avenue Wilkinsburg, PA 15221 412-371-9667	Woodland Hills School District 531 Jones Avenue North Braddock, PA 15104 412-731-1300
<b>CHARTER SCHOOL OFFICES</b>	
Imagine Penn Hills 2501 Main Street Pittsburgh, PA 15235 412-793-6471	PA Distance Learning 2100 Corporate Drive, Suite 500 Wexford, PA 15090 724-933-7300
Propel Charter Schools 3447 Carson Street Pittsburgh, PA 15203 412-325-7305	Spectrum Charter School 4369 Northern Pike Monroeville, PA 15146 412-374-8130
Young Scholars of McKeesport 413 Shaw Avenue McKeesport, PA 15132 412-673-7300	Young Scholars of Western PA 600 Newport Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15234 412-668-2064
Westinghouse Arts Academy School 320 Marguerite Avenue Wilmerding, PA 15148 412-496-4864	

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.