

Annual Public Notice of Special Education Services and Programs, Services for Gifted Students and Services for Protected Handicapped Students

(Revised July, 2009)

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 staff member 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 on standardized tests. Developmental areas include cognitive, communicative, physical, social/emotional and self-help. For additional information you may contact your educational agency.

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 staff.

Consent

School entities cannot proceed with an evaluation or reevaluation, 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 or your educational agency. 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 professionals 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 educational 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 CDs 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 age children, information, screenings and evaluations requested may be obtained by contacting the Intermediate Unit. The addresses of these schools are as follows:

INTERMEDIATE UNIT	
Tuscarora Intermediate Unit 11 2527 US Hwy 522 S McVeytown, PA 17051	
SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICES	
Central Fulton School District 151 East Cherry Street McConnellsburg, PA 17233-1400	Forbes Road School District Forbes Road High School 159 Redbird Drive Waterfall, PA 16689
Huntingdon Area School District Administrative Office 2400 Cassady Avenue, Suite 2 Huntingdon, PA 16652-2602	Juniata County School District Administrative Office HC 63, Box 7D Mifflintown, PA 17059
Juniata Valley School District Juniata Valley High School 7775 Juniata Valley Pike, PO Box 318 Alexandria, PA 16611	Mifflin County School District Administrative Building 201 Eighth Street, Highland Park Lewistown, PA 17044
Mount Union Area School District Administrative Center 28 West Market Street Mount Union, PA 17066	Southern Fulton School District Southern Fulton High School 3072 Great Cove Road, Suite 100 Warfordsburg, PA 17267
Southern Huntingdon School District Southern Huntingdon County High School 10339 Pogue Road Three Springs, PA 17264-9730	
CHARTER SCHOOLS	
Tuscarora Blended Learning Charter School 101 South Fifth Street Huntingdon, PA 16652	

The school entity or charter school 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, 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.

Tuscarora Intermediate Unit 11 – Special Education Services	Ms. Sandi Dinardi	814-542-2501
Central Fulton School District	Ms. Ginger Thompson	717-485-3195
Forbes Road School District	Mr. Byron Helsel	814-685-3865
Huntingdon Area School District	Ms. Kelly Lawler-Zurybida	814-641-2104
Juniata County School District	Dr. Elise Hazel	717-436-2111
Juniata Valley School District	Ms. Kim Connelly	814-669-4401
Mifflin County School District	Ms. Tracey Jones	717-248-0148
Mount Union Area School District	Ms. Tonya DeVecchis-Kerr	814-542-8631
Southern Fulton School District	Ms. Diane Younker	717-294-3400
Southern Huntingdon County School District	Ms. Stacey Miller	814-448-3411
Huntingdon County Prison	Ms. Kelly Lawler-Zurybida	814-641-2104
Juniata County Prison	Ms. Kay Hughes	717-436-2111
Mifflin County Prison	Mr. Edward Curry	717-248-0148
Juvenile Corrections	Mr. Ronn Bargiel	814-658-4024
Pre-School Children (Ages 3 to 5)	Ms. Diane Galbraith Ms. Fran Merrifield	814-542 2501
Non-Public Schools Located in IU 11	Ms. Linda Dell	814-542-2501
Tuscarora Blended Learning Charter School	Ms. Daryl Smith	814-643-7112