

# **2023-2024 Annual Public Notice of Special Education Services and Programs, for Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit, Local School Districts and Other Local Agencies Providing Services for Gifted Students and Protected Handicapped Students**

**August 2023**

## **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 ages three to school-age may be eligible for Early Intervention services if they are experiencing developmental delays. Developmental delays, as defined by the State and as measured by appropriate diagnostic instruments, include a 25 percent delay or a test performance of 1.5 standard deviations below the mean on a standardized assessment in one of the following developmental areas: physical development, cognitive development, communication development, social or emotional development or adaptive development. A young child may also be deemed eligible if they are determined to have a diagnosed disability as defined by PA Chapter 14 regulations. Eligibility for Early Intervention services is two-pronged. The child must be diagnosed with a developmental delay or a diagnosed disability and display a need for specially designed instruction. Specially designed instruction means adapting the content, methodology, or delivery of instruction to address the unique needs of the child and to ensure access to the general education curriculum.

## **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, <http://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 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.

In accordance with 34 CFR § 300.624, please be advised of the following retention/destruction schedule for the Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment (PASA), Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA), and Keystone Exam related materials:

- PSSA, Keystone Exam, and PASA test booklets will be destroyed one year after student reports are delivered for the administration associated with the test booklets.
- PSSA and Keystone Exam answer booklets and PASA media recordings will be destroyed three years after completion of the assessment.

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:

<b>INTERMEDIATE UNIT 16</b>	
Special Education Terri Locke 90 Lawton Lane Milton, PA 17847 570-523-1155, extension 2212	Early Intervention 570-523-1155, extension 2226 Kaitlyn Hall 90 Lawton Lane Milton, PA 17847
<b>SCHOOL DISTRICT/VOCATIONAL SCHOOL OFFICES</b>	
Benton Area School District 600 Green Acres Road Benton, PA 17814 Mary Rose Latorre 570-925-6651, extension 3003	Berwick Area School District 500 Line Street Berwick, PA 18603 Pamela Hegland 570-759-6400, extension 3503
Bloomsburg Area School District 728 East Fifth Street Bloomsburg, PA 17815 Dr. Ricki Boyle 570-784-7885, extension 1148	Central Columbia School District 4777 Old Berwick Road Bloomsburg, PA 17815 Jennifer Snyder 570-784-2850, extension 4043
Danville Area School District 931 Ironmen Lane Danville, PA 17821 Alyssa Wenrich Amy Willoughby 570-271-3268, ext 3719	Lewisburg Area School District 1951 Washington Ave., PO Box 351 Lewisburg, PA 17837 Stephanie Beaver 570-522-3277
Line Mountain School District 185 Line Mountain Road Herndon, PA 17830 Amy Dunn 570-758-2640, extension 6021	Mid-West School District 568 East Main Street Middleburg, PA 17842 Erin Sheedy 570-837-0046, extension 1301
Mifflinburg Area School District 178 Maple Street, Box 285 Mifflinburg, PA 17844 Jane Spickler	Millville Area School District 330 East Main Street, PO Box 260 Millville, PA 17846 Dee Davis

570-966-8281	570-458-5538, extension 1007
Milton Area School District 700 Mahoning Street Milton, PA 17847 Misty Harris 570-742-0539	Mt. Carmel Area School District 600 West Fifth Street Mount Carmel, PA 17851 Nicole Edmondson 570-339-1500, extension 3149
Selinsgrove Area School District 329 Seals Avenue Selinsgrove, PA 17870 Susan Lipsey 570-372-2205	Shamokin Area School District 2000 West State Street Coal Township, PA 17866 Sherry Glosek 570-648-5731, extension 3601
Shikellamy School District 200 Island Boulevard Sunbury, PA 17801 Stephanie Michaels 570-286-3721, extension 2363	Southern Columbia Area School District 800 Southern Drive Catawissa, PA 17820 Special Education Office 570-356-3510
Warrior Run School District 4800 Susquehanna Trail Turbotville, PA 17772 Amanda Velte 570-649-5138, extension 5010	North Central Secure Treatment 13 Kirkbride Drive Danville, PA 17821 Jeffrey Myers 570-271-4752
Columbia-Montour Area Vocational- Technical School 5050 Sweppenheiser Drive Bloomsburg, PA 17815 Suzanne Rentschler 570-784-8040	Northumberland County Career and Technology Center 1700-2000 West Montgomery Street Coal Township, PA 17866 Dr. James E. Catino 570-644-0304
SUN Area Technical Institute 815 East Market Street and 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Drive New Berlin, PA 17855 David Bacher 570-966-1031	
<b>NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS LOCATED IN IU 16</b>	
Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit Jennifer Allen 90 Lawton Lane Milton, PA 17847 570-523-1155, extension 2302	
<b>PRISONS</b>	

Columbia County Prison 721 Iron Street Bloomsburg, PA 17815 George Nye 570-784-4815	Montour County Prison 117 Church Street Danville, PA 17821 Samuel Kranzer 570-271-3039
Northumberland County Prison 1 Kelley Drive Coal Township, PA 17866 Tom Reisinger 570-988-4232	Snyder County Prison 600 Old Colony Road Selinsgrove, PA 17870 Scott Robinson 570-374-7912
Union County Jail Union County Courthouse Lewisburg, PA 17837 Douglas Shaffer 570-524-8711	

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.

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