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# Pennsylvania Department of Education

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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
333 MARKET STREET  
HARRISBURG, PA 17126-0333

## **Special Education Report** **Wednesday, June 18, 2008**

**Entity:** North Schuylkill SD  
**Address:** 15 Academy Lane Route 61  
Ashland, PA 17921-9301  
**Phone:** (570) 874-0466 Ext: 1144  
**Contact Name:** Carol Dinich

## School District Demographics

School District	IU #	Superintendent	# of Bldgs	Total Enrollment	Total Unduplicated SES Students
North Schuylkill SD	Schuylkill IU 29	Dr. Robert Franklin	4	2012	324

### District Special Education Contact:

Name	Title	Phone	Fax	Email
Carol T. Dinich	Director of Special Education	570-874-0495	570-874-1398	cdinich@northschuylkill.net

## Special Education Plan Team Members

Name	Affiliation	Membership Category	Appointed By
Carol Dinich	North Schuylkill School District	Administrator	Superintendent
Dennis Kergick	North Schuylkill School District	Administrator	Superintendent
Eleanor Sanayka	North Schuylkill School District	Special Education Representative	Teachers
Gerald Nesvold	North Schuylkill School District	Administrator	Superintendent
Keith Yarger	North Schuylkill School District	Administrator	Superintendent
Neall Jones	North Schuylkill School District	Administrator	Superintendent
Paul Caputo	North Schuylkill School District	Administrator	Superintendent
Robert Franklin	North Schuylkill School District	Administrator	Superintendent
Sharon Snyder	North Schuylkill School District	Administrator	Superintendent
Tom Kowalonek	North Schuylkill School District	Administrator	Superintendent

## Program Evaluation (P.L. 105-17, §612(2) and §613(a))

### Current Program Strengths and Highlights

The North Schuylkill School District is committed to providing students who are eligible for special education services, programs in the least restrictive environment within their home school district whenever possible. In July of 2005, North Schuylkill began the operation of all Special Education Programs within the school district that were previously operated by Schuylkill Intermediate 29. We have hired our own psychologist, speech pathologists, social worker and occupational therapist. We have opened an additional secondary emotional support class and an elementary emotional support class. This has afforded us the opportunity to better serve our youth within North Schuylkill School District. We anticipate the opening of a multidisabilities class in the new elementary school which should be open before the beginning of the 07/08 school year. For those students whose needs can not be met by the district, we still contract with the local intermediate unit so that no child goes without the services they need. Professional development

is ongoing and we encourage our staff to participate in trainings offered by Intermediate Unit 29 and the PATTAN Office in Harrisburg. Through a paraprofessional training grant, we provide continuous training for our paraprofessional staff who support our students in the general education curriculum.

**Identifying Students with Learning Disabilities**

**Enrollment Differences**

**Ethnicity Enrollment Differences**

**Exiting Statistics**

**24 P.S., §1306 and §1306.2 Placements**

**Facilities for Nonresident Students**

Facility Name	Provider of Educational Services	# of Students Receiving Srvcs as of Dec 1
Not Applicable	No Facility Exists	0

**Incarcerated Students Oversight**

North Schuylkill School District fully complies with the requirements of IDEA 2004 and Chapter 14 regarding the identification, evaluation, placement and provision of special education services to all eligible school age individuals from North Schuylkill School District who are housed in Schuylkill County Prison. Pottsville Area School District is the host district for Schuylkill County Prison and North Schuylkill works closely with Pottsville who provides the needed services directly to our students who are eligible for such services. Eligible students receive special education when they are charged with a criminal offense, are awaiting trial, and after they are convicted of a criminal offense. Pottsville Area School District in conjunction with North Schuylkill School District complies with the child find obligations of IDEA 2004, implements/reviews or develops IEPs for eligible students in accordance with state and federal laws, utilizes appropriate evaluation procedures and screening instruments to determine the eligibility and educational needs of the inmates, and provides FAPE in conformity with the IEP.

As the host school district, Pottsville Area School District is responsible for making decisions regarding the goals, programming, and educational placement for each incarcerated eligible student and seeks advice from North Schuylkill School District in the planning of that educational program. North Schuylkill School District stays informed of the education of its incarcerated special education students through active dialogue and communication with the host district to ensure the provision of appropriate special educational programs for our incarcerated youth.

**Facilities for Incarcerated Students**

Facility Name	Provider of Educational Services	# of Students Receiving Srvcs as of Dec 1
NA	NA	0

**Least Restrictive Environment 34 CFR §300.551**

## Ensuring Maximum Integration

North Schuylkill School District always utilizes the continuum of services to determine what level of intervention is needed beginning with regular education with supplementary aides and services. Placement decisions are made only after the IEP team considers the amount of supplementary aides and services needed to support each child in their least restrictive environment. While the district is moving towards greater inclusion at all levels, we are committed to providing the special education services each child needs in order to access his/her general education curriculum with success. IEP teams will also include the provision of supplementary aides and services deemed appropriate so children can participate in nonacademic and extracurricular activities. In the event we are unable to provide services to a student in the least restrictive environment, we would immediately contact the Intermediate Unit, agencies, or other local school districts to assist us in providing FAPE for each and every child in North Schuylkill School District.

## Supplementary Aids and Services

Service	Comment
Occupational Therapy	Provided by NSSD
Social Work	Provided by NSSD
Speech Therapy	Provided by NSSD
Psychologist	Provided by NSSD
Autistic Support	Provided by NSSD
Learning Support	Provided by NSSD
Hearing and Vision Screening	Provided by NSSD
Office of Vocational Rehabilitation	The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation is an integral part of our high school senior transition activities.
Physical Therapy	Provided by IU 29
Behavior Support	Provided by IU 29
Emotional Support	Provided by NSSD
Educating Today's Children (ETC)	Association formed by NSSD parents and special education staff to assist in the transition of programs and services from the Schuylkill IU to NSSD.

## LRE Data Analysis

### Least Restrictive Environment - Facilities

Facility Name	Type of Facility	Type of Service	# of Students Placed
Scranton School for the Deaf	Approved Private Schools	Deaf or Hearing Impaired Support	2
Schuylkill Intermediate Unit #29	Special Education Centers	Autistic Support/FT	1
Schuylkill Intermediate Unit #29	Special Education Centers	Life Skills Support/FT	5
Schuylkill Intermediate Unit	Special	Multi Disabilities Support/FT	2

	Education Centers		
Schuylkill Intermediate Unit	Special Education Centers	Emotional Support (Unilateral placements for Drug and Weapon Violation) /FT	3
Schuylkill Intermediate Unit	Special Education Centers	Blind and Visually Impaired Support/Itinerant	1
Counsel House Partial Hospitalization Program	Other	Emotional Support/Itinerant	2
Shenandoah Valley Alternative Education Program (Result of a drug/weapon violation)	Neighboring School Districts	Learning Support/Itinerant	1

## Personnel Development for Improved Student Results

### Personnel Development - PA NCLB Goal #1

#### Personnel Development Activities:

<b>Topic</b>	AUTISM: Students with disabilities will be provided services by an adequate supply of personnel with the knowledge and skills necessary to meet their needs
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Anticipated Training Dates	Training Partners	Training Participants and Audience	Training Format	Evidence of Results
Every May and August for transitioning students to next teacher in 07/08, 08/09, and 09/10. Summer Autism Conference at Penn State in July 07. Bi monthly collaboration opportunity with other county teachers of Autistic Support Classes every year of this plan. Yearly training opportunities that become available through other districts and the Autism Support Group at the local and state level.	PATTAN Staff, IU Staff, The Autism Support Group Individual Family Child Awareness Meetings	Parent, New Staff, Paraprofessional, Administrative Staff, Related Service Personnel	On-site Training with Guided Practice, Conferences, Study Groups, Distance Learning, Teacher to Teacher sharing, Family Member Trainings for Faculty, Autism Society Trainings	100% of all regular and special education staff trained and ready to meet the needs of each child identified under the Autism Spectrum Classification.

<b>Topic</b>	ROLE OF PARAEUCATOR/HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHER: Students with disabilities will be provided services by an adequate supply of personnel with the knowledge and skills necessary to meet their needs
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Anticipated Training Dates	Training Partners	Training Participants and Audience	Training Format	Evidence of Results
07/08-60 hours of training available 08/09-65 hours of training available 09/10-65 hours of training available . These trainings will continue to change and grow based upon yearly needs.	PATTAN Staff, IU Staff, Training Modules Teacher to Paraeducator Local Trainings	New Staff, Paraprofessional	On-site Training with Guided Practice, Conferences, Distance Learning	100% of all paraprofessionals employed by North Schuylkill will have completed an between 50 and 60 hours of specialized training for paraeducators.

## Personnel Development - PA NCLB Goal #2

### Personnel Development Activities:

<b>Topic</b>	TRANSITION: Students with disabilities will demonstrate increased ability to successfully make the transitions to school age programs, to work, to post-secondary education and/or adult
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Anticipated Training Dates	Training Partners	Training Participants and Audience	Training Format	Evidence of Results
07/08-Monthly meetings of Local Transition Council Fall and Spring Trainings on the Transition Survey IEP Development Training on Transition Outcomes Training on Pennsylvania new Regulations when complete 08/09-Monthly Collaboration at Local Transition Council Meetings, Ongoing IEP Development on Post Secondary Outcomes 09/10 State Trainings and IU Trainings on Transition	PATTAN Staff, IU Staff, Higher Education Staff	Parent, New Staff, Paraprofessional, Instructional Staff, Related Service Personnel	Conferences, Distance Learning, Transition Council	1. 3% increase in the graduation rate each year over the next 3 years 2. 08/09 Transition Survey to reflect 85% achieving planned Post Secondary Outcomes. 3. 09/10-90% achieving Post Secondary Outcomes based on the Follow Up Survey data collection.

## Behavior Support Services

### Interagency Collaboration (11 P.S. §875.304)

#### Ensuring FAPE/Hard to Place Students

#### Local Continuum of Supports and Services

#### Expansion of Continuum of Supports and Services

#### Program Profile

ID	OPR	Location / Building Name	Bldg Grade	Bldg Type	Type of Support	Type of Service	Low Age	High Age	Case load	Tchr FTE
-	SD	North Schuylkill Jr. Sr. High School	S	GE	FT	ES	15	18	12	1.00
-	SD	North Schuylkill Jr. Sr. High School	S	GE	FT	ES	12	16	12	1.00
-	SD	North Schuylkill Jr. Sr. High School	S	GE	FT	LSS	14	21	9	1.00
-	SD	North Schuylkill Jr. Sr. High School	S	GE	FT	MDS	12	21	7	1.00
-	SD	Jr. Sr. High School	S	GE	FT	LS	13	17	11	1.00
-	SD	North Schuylkill Jr. Sr. High School	S	GE	FT	LS	16	20	10	1.00
-	SD	District Buildings	S	GE	I	LS	6	21	20	0.87
-	SD	District Buildings	S	GE	I	ES	6	21	3	0.13
-	SD	District Buildings	E	GE	I	LS	6	21	18	1.00
-	SD	District Buildings	E	GE	I	SLS	6	21	56	1.00
-	SD	District Buildings	E	GE	I	SLS	6	21	57	1.00
C	SD	District Buildings	S	GE	I	SLS	6	21	34	1.00
-	SD	North Schuylkill Jr. Sr. High School	S	GE	R	LS	12	16	12	1.00
-	SD	North Schuylkill Jr. Sr. High School	S	GE	R	LS	13	17	13	1.00
-	SD	North Schuylkill Jr. Sr. High School	S	GE	R	LS	14	18	18	1.00
-	SD	North Schuylkill Jr. Sr. High School	S	GE	R	LS	15	19	16	1.00

-	SD	North Schuylkill Jr. Sr. High School	S	GE	R	LS	17	20	18	1.00
M	SD	North Schuylkill Elementary School	E	GE	FT	AS	5	11	8	1.00
M	SD	North Schuylkill Elementary School	E	GE	FT	ES	9	12	8	1.00
C	SD	North Schuylkill Elementary School	E	GE	R	LS	5	8	12	1.00
C	SD	North Schuylkill Elementary School	E	GE	R	LS	6	9	12	1.00
C	SD	North Schuylkill Elementary School	E	GE	R	LS	7	10	12	1.00
C	SD	North Schuylkill Elementary School	E	GE	R	LS	8	11	12	1.00
C	SD	North Schuylkill Elementary School	E	GE	R	LS	9	12	12	1.00
C	SD	North Schuylkill Elementary School	E	GE	R	LS	10	13	12	1.00
-	IU	North Schuylkill School District	S	GE	I	DHIS	9	17	4	0.08
-	IU	North Schuylkill Elementary School	E	GE	I	SLS	9	12	3	0.06
-	IU	North Schuylkill Jr. Sr. High School	S	GE	I	SLS	13	17	1	0.02

**Justification:** \*The age range in the Full Time Life Skills Support Class and the Full Time Multidisabilities Class exceeds the 4 year allowable age span mandated by PA Chapter 14.141(f). The student population of these classes is a low incidence population and parents of the students have indicated their desire to have their children educated within the North Schuylkill Jr. Sr. High School. Age range waivers may be found within each student's individual IEP.

\*We currently have 2 Itinerant Learning Support/Emotional Support Teachers. While one teacher serves mainly the elementary school age population and the other serves mainly secondary age school age children, either teacher may be needed to provide itinerant services at any grade level.

\*In September of the 2007 School year, the Ashland Elementary School and the Frackville Elementary School will merge into a new building , The North Schuylkill Elementary School. All Elementary Special Education Classes will move into the new building with the school district beginning an "Inclusion" model for delivery of services to provide each child greater access to their general education curriculum and to educate each child in their Least Restrictive Environment. Each grade will be taught by both regular and special education

teachers working collaboratively to provide special education services in the general education curriculum. Therefore, all Elementary Learning Support Full Time and Part Time Classrooms will be Learning Support Resource Rooms at the start of the 2007 school year. This constitutes a change and a move for every special education classroom at Ashland and Frackville Elementary Schools. Each classroom will be limited to 12 students in any given room at any one time based upon the classroom size. These classrooms will be used for any specialized instruction that the IEP team determines can not be delivered in the general education classroom.

\*Speech and Language Pathologists serve in an Itinerant capacity. We have 2 therapists assigned to mainly serve the elementary school population and have just replaced a part time independent contracted clinician with a new full time position to serve mainly the 6th through 12th grades. These services are delivered either in the same classroom as their peers, (Inclusion), or in a small group setting with peers who do not exceed the age span for the delivery of services at either the elementary (3 years), or the secondary (4 years) levels.

\*The Autistic Support Class mainly provides support for students Kindergarten through 3rd grade. There are 2 students who will be in 5th grade for the 07/08 school year. One student is almost totally integrated into regular education and the second student is able to participate in a large portion of the school day with integration. Parents of these students have indicated the desire to have their children educated within the North Schuylkill Elementary Autistic Support Classroom so that maximum access to the general education curriculum is available. Paraprofessionals support our students in their regular education environment and each child's IEP reflects the agreement and knowledge of the age span difference.

\*The Intermediate Unit #29 provides Itinerant Services for any student requiring Hearing Support and the Speech and Language Component of that service in our school district.

## Support Staff (District)

School District: North Schuylkill SD

ID	OPR	Title	Location	FTE
T	SD	Occupational Therapist	All Buildings-North Schuylkill School District	1.00
-	SD	Licensed School Social Worker	All Buildings-North Schuylkill School District	1.00
N	SD	Speech and Language Therapist	All Buildings-North Schuylkill School District	1.00
-	SD	Speech and Language Therapists	All Buildings-North Schuylkill School District	2.00
-	SD	Special Education Director	All Buildings-North Schuylkill School District	1.00
-	SD	Special Education Administrative Assistant (Child Count/ ACCESS,etc.)	North Schuylkill Jr. Sr. High School	1.00
-	SD	Special Education Teacher Aides	All Buildings-North Schuylkill Jr. Sr. High School	21.52

## Contracted Support Services

ID	IU / Agency	Title / Service	Amount of Time per Week
-	Intermediate Unit #29	Physical Therapy	5 Hours
-	Intermediate Unit #29	Occupational Therapy	5 Hours
-	Intermediate Unit #29	Orientation and Mobility	1 Hours

## **ASSURANCE FOR THE OPERATION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AND PROGRAMS**

**School Years: 2010 - 2013**

The North Schuylkill SD within Schuylkill IU 29 assures that the school district will comply with the requirements of 22 PA Code Chapter 14 and with the policies and procedures of PDE. PDE will specify, in writing, policies and procedures to be followed. Requests for any deviations from these regulations, standards, policies, and procedures must be made in writing to PDE. The school district understands that special education reports will be approved by PDE in accordance with the following criteria as set forth in 22 Pa. School Code Â§14.104:

1. There are a full range of services, programs and alternative placements available to the school district for placement and implementation of the special education programs in the school district.
2. The school district has adopted a child find system to locate, identify and evaluate young children and children who are thought to be a child with a disability eligible for special education residing within the school district's jurisdiction. Child find data is collected, maintained, and used in decision-making. Child find process and procedures are evaluated for its effectiveness. The school district implements mechanisms to disseminate child find information to the public, organizations, agencies, and individuals on at least an annual basis.
3. The school district has adopted policies and procedures that assure that students with disabilities are included in general education programs and extracurricular and non-academic programs and activities to the maximum extent appropriate in accordance with an Individualized Education Program.
4. The school district will comply with the PA Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education's report revision notice process.
5. The school district follows the state and federal guidelines for participation of students with disabilities in state and district-wide assessments including the determination of participation, the need for accommodations, and the methods of assessing students for whom regular assessment is not appropriate.
6. The school district assures the Pennsylvania Department of Education that funds received through participation in the medical assistance reimbursement program, ACCESS, will be used to enhance or expand the current level of services and programs provided to students with disabilities in this local education agency.

**This assurance must be signed by the School Board President and the Superintendent for the school district to operate services and programs.**

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**Board President**

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**Date**

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**Superintendent**

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**Date**