

Schuylkill Intermediate Unit and Member School Districts Annual Public Notice of Special Education Identification Programs, Services, and Gifted Education

Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29, in conjunction with the twelve-member school districts is required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004, (IDEIA) to provide a free appropriate public education for children, ages 3 through 21, with disabilities. Children with disabilities are those that need special education and related services as a result of one or more of the following physical and/or mental disabilities:

- Autism
- Deaf-Blindness
- Emotional Disturbance
- Hearing Impairment including Deafness
- Intellectual Disabilities
- Multiple Disabilities
- Developmental Delay *(For children age 3 through the age of admission to a school age program)*
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Other Health Impairment
- Specific Learning Disability
- Speech/Language Impairment
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Visual Impairment including Blindness

Screening and Evaluation Process

The Schuylkill Intermediate Unit and all member school districts have procedures in place to help identify children who may be eligible for special education and related services. The process includes both screening procedures for potential speech, hearing and vision needs as well as parent/guardian or teacher referrals for a comprehensive educational evaluation. If the parent/guardian believes their child may be eligible for special education and or related services, they may request a screening and evaluation at any time at no cost to them. Any such request should be directed to the school district special education contact person listed at the conclusion of this announcement. All requests for preschool age children should be directed to the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit Early Intervention Preschool Department also listed at the conclusion of this announcement.

Services for Protected Handicapped Students

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, all school districts must provide services to and may not discriminate against "protected handicapped students." A "protected handicapped student" is a student who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, has a record of such an impairment or is regarded as having such an impairment. A "protected handicapped student" may qualify for special services to ensure equal opportunity to participate in the school program including extracurricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate for the individual student.

Gifted Education Services

All member school districts within Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29 offer specially designed instruction for students that have been evaluated and identified as "mentally gifted." These services include specially designed programs or support services that are not ordinarily provided in the regular education program. School districts use multiple criteria, including IQ score, to identify students with gifted ability who may require specially designed instruction.

Early Intervention Services

Children ages 3-5 who may experience developmental delays, including physical and/or mental disabilities and their families are eligible for early intervention services provided by Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29. The services include screening and evaluation procedures, educational programs and related services, as well as information for families including consultation and referral to community agencies, if appropriate, at no cost to the family. To obtain additional information please contact the Early Intervention Supervisor listed at the conclusion of this notice.

Early Intervention Services for infants and toddlers from birth to age 3 are the responsibility of the Department of Public Welfare. To obtain additional information please contact Services Access and Management Inc. at (570) 621-2700.

Notice of Rights under Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974

Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29 and member school are required to protect the confidentiality of personally identifiable information of students in accordance with federal law and state and federal rules and regulations. The rights and privacy of students include the following:

- The right to inspect and review the student's educational records within forty-five days of the date that the educational agency receives a request for access to the records.
 - > A written request, identifying the record(s) to be inspected, should be submitted to the building administrator of the school where the student attends.
- The right to request that the student's educational records be amended if the parent/guardian believes the records to be inaccurate or violates the privacy or other rights of the student.
 - > A written request identifying what record(s) are seeking to be amended and why should be submitted to the building administrator of the school where the student attends.
 - > The school will notify the parent/guardian, in writing, of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding their request for amendment of the record(s).
- The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's educational records, except to the extent that federal and state law authorize disclosure without consent.
- The right to file a complaint with the U. S. Department of Education at the Family Policy Compliance Office concerning alleged failures by the educational agency to comply with the requirements of FERPA.
- 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.

Questions regarding programs and services for eligible students with special needs as well as thought to be exceptional students may be addressed to School District and/or Intermediate Unit 29 personnel as follows:

Blue Mountain SD
Dr. Tyler Herman
(570) 366-0515 Ext. 1025

Mahanoy ASD
Mrs. Brandy Paul
(570) 773-3443 Ext. 4019

Minersville ASD
Mrs. Jill Atkinson
(570) 544-1400 Ext. 2217

North Schuylkill SD
Mr. Knute Brayford
(570) 874-0495 Ext. 1141

Pine Grove ASD
Mr. William Kimber
(570) 345-2731 Ext. 325

Pottsville ASD
Ms. Kelly Brennan
(570) 621-2985

Schuylkill IU 29
School Age Programs
Dr. Rene' Evans
(570) 544-9131 Ext. 1211

Gillingham Charter School
Ms. Nicole Hutchinson
(570) 955-3830 Ext. 135

Saint Clair ASD
Ms. Kacie Fetterolf
(570) 429-2716 Ext. 262

Schuylkill Haven ASD
Mr. Kenneth Rossi
(570) 385-6726

Shenandoah Valley SD
Mrs. Michelle Zinkus
(570) 462-1957

Tamaqua ASD
Mr. James Betz
(570) 668-1901 Ext. 2565

Tri-Valley SD
Ms. Ashley Miller
(570) 682-9909

Williams Valley SD
Joellyse Hartz
(717) 647-2167 Ext. 1250

Schuylkill IU 29
Early Intervention
Mrs. Lynda Yordy
(570) 544-9131 Ext. 1201

9/4/2024 RE/as