

**Annual Public Notice of Special Education Services and Programs, Services for
Gifted Students and Services for Protected Handicapped Students
To Parents who reside in one of the Twenty Constituent School Districts of the Northeastern
Educational Intermediate Unit**

El contenido de esta nota se ha escrito en inglés. Si usted no entiende esta nota, debe contactar el distrito escolar (vea los contactos) y solicite una explicación.

The content of this notice has been written in English. If a person does not understand any of this notice, he or she should contact the school district (see Contacts) and request an explanation.

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 Mary Murphy Fox, NEIU Early Intervention Supervisor at (570) 876-9255.

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 Mary Murphy Fox, NEIU Early Intervention Supervisor, 1200 Line Street, Archbald, PA 18403.

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. 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.

Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit 19

Abington Heights/Mr. Sam Sica/(570)585-8227
Blue Ridge/Mr. Mark Fallon/(570)465-3141
Carbondale Area/Ms. Ann Boyle/(570)282-5656
Dunmore/Ms. Frances Loughney/(570)346-2043
Elk Lake/Ms. Pamela Staats/(570)278-1106
Forest City Regional/Ms. Donna Potis/(570)785-2444
Lackawanna Trail/Ms. Jo Ann Radicchi/(570)945-5184
Lakeland/Dr. Margaret Billings-Jones/(570)254-9485
Mid Valley/Ms. Rose Ellen Skodacek/(570)307-2165
Montrose Area/Dr. Donald Golden/(570)278-6219
Mountain View/Ms. Susan Pipitone/(570)434-2181
North Pocono/Ms. Carol Natitus/(570)842-7676
Old Forge/Mr. R. Scott Jeffery/(570)457-6721
Riverside/Ms. Kristen Samsel/(570)562-2121
Scranton/Ms. Lee Carr/(570)348-3438
Susquehanna Community/Mr. David Jagger/(570)853-4921
Valley View/Mr. David Angeloni/(570)876-4110
Wallenpaupack Area/Ms. Gwyn Devendorf/(570)226-4557
Wayne Highlands/Ms. Amanda Kerna/(570)253-3402
Western Wayne/Dr. Lorna Johns/(570)937-3010
NEIU 19/Dr. Clarence Lamanna/(570)876-9215
NEIU 19 Early Intervention/Ms. Mary Murphy Fox/(570)876-9255
NEIU 19 Non-Public/Ms. Eliza Vagni/(570)876-9220
Fell Charter School/Ms. Mary Jo Walsh/(570)282-5199

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 war. 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.