Annual Notice/Child Find

Public Notice

School Age Special Education Services and Programs

In compliance with state and federal law, notice is hereby given by the Lehighton Area School District that it conducts ongoing identification activities as a part of its school program for the purpose of identifying student who may be in need of special education and related services. If your child is identified by the district as possibly in need of such services, you will be notified of applicable procedures. Individualized services and programs are available for children who are determined to need specially designed instruction due to the following conditions:

Autism; Deaf-blindness; Deafness; Emotional disturbance; Hearing Impairment; Intellectual disability; Multiple disabilities; Orthopedic impairment; Other Health impairment; Specific Learning disability; Speech or Language impairment; Traumatic Brain injury; Visual impairment.

If you believe that your school age child may be in need of special education services and related programs, screening and evaluation processes are available to you at no cost, upon written request, whether or not your child is enrolled in the district’s public school program.

Requests for school-age evaluation and screening should be made in writing to the Supervisor of Special Services, 1000 Union Street, Lehighton PA 18235.

Preschool Services and Programs

Children age three through the age of admission to first grade are eligible for Early Intervention services if they have developmental delays and, as a result, need special education or related services. A child is considered to have a developmental delay when one of the following exists: (i) the child’s score on a developmental assessment devices 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; or (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.

Parents of young children with concerns about their child’s seeing, hearing, learning, talking, moving about, manipulating objects, understanding, showing emotions, getting along with others, playing with toys, taking care of himself/herself, should contact the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit-Project Connect at (610) 769-4111.

**Potential Signs of Developmental Delays**

There are several general “warning signs” of possible delays. These include:

**Behavioral Warning Signs**

- Does not pay attention or stay focused on an activity for as long a time as other children of the same age
- Focuses on unusual objects for long periods of time; enjoys this more than interacting with others
- Avoids or rarely makes eye contact with others
- Gets unusually frustrated when trying to do simple tasks that most children of the same age can do
- Shows aggressive behaviors and acting out and appears to be very stubborn compared with other children
- Displays violent behaviors on a daily basis
- Stares into space, rocks body, or talks to self, more often than other children of the same age
- Does not seek love and approval from a caregiver or parent

**Gross Motor Warning Signs**
- Has stiff arms and/or legs
- Has a floppy or limp body posture compared to other children of the same age
- Uses one side of body more than the other
- Has a very clumsy manner compared to other children of the same age

**Visual Warning Signs**

- Seems to have difficulty following objects or people with their eyes
- Rubs eyes frequently
- Turns, tilts, or holds head in a strained or unusual position when trying to look at an object
- Seems to have difficulty finding or picking up small objects dropped on the floor (after the age of 12 months)
- Has difficulty focusing or making eye contact
- Closes one eye when trying to look at distant objects
- Brings objects too close to eyes to see
- One or both eyes appears abnormal in size or coloring
SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

The 14 Member School Districts of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 Provide Special Education Programs for Special Needs Children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allentown School District</th>
<th>Parkland School District</th>
<th>Arts Academy Charter Middle School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catasauqua Area School District</td>
<td>Salisbury Township School District</td>
<td>Arts Academy Elementary Charter School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Penn School District</td>
<td>Southern Lehigh School District</td>
<td>Circle of Seasons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Thorpe Area School District</td>
<td>Weatherly Area School District</td>
<td>Executive Education Academy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lehighton Area School District</td>
<td>Whitehall-Canopa School District</td>
<td>Innovative Arts Academy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Lehigh School District</td>
<td>Carbon Career and Technical Institute</td>
<td>Lincoln Leadership Academy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwestern Lehigh School District</td>
<td>Lehigh Career and Technical Institute</td>
<td>Roberto Clemente Charter School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palmeton Area School District</td>
<td>Nonpublic/Private Schools</td>
<td>Roberto Clemente Elementary Charter School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Panther Valley School District</td>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>Seven Generations</td>
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The School Districts listed above, either directly or through various other education agencies including CLIU #21, provide special education services which may be required by children with special needs.

Types of programs and services are:

1. **Academic Program**
   - **Gifted Support** for students identified as mentally gifted. The focus is to provide instruction beyond the regular curriculum.
   - **Learning Support** for students whose primary identified need is academic learning.

2. **Life Skill Support**
   For students where the focus is primarily on the needs of students for independent living as well as general daily living skills.

3. **Emotional Support**
   For students whose primary identified need is for emotional support. The focus is primarily on behavior management.

4. **Sensory Support**
   - **Deaf or Hard of Hearing** for students who are deaf or hard of hearing.
   - **Blind or Visually Impaired** for students who are blind or visually impaired.

5. **Speech and Language Support**
   For students who are speech and language impaired.

6. **Physical Support**
   For students where the program is modified primarily to meet the need of the physically disabled student.

7. **Aesthetic Support**
   For students who are artistic. The focus is primarily to develop daily living skills.

8. **Multidisciplinary Support**
   For students who are multi-handicapped. The focus is on daily living, self-help, and independent living.

Questions regarding services for special needs children can be addressed to:

- **Allentown**: Ms. Belinda Miller (484) 755-4162
- **Catasauqua**: Mr. Robert Spengle (610) 264-5271
- **East Penn**: Dr. Linda Peltz (610) 965-3300
- **Jim Thorpe**: Ms. Eileen O’Brien (570) 941-7084
- **Lehighton**: Ms. Annette Olszynko (610) 799-1326
- **Northern Lehigh**: Ms. Michele Dotta (610) 767-9585
- **Northwestern Lehigh**: Mrs. Andrea Edmonds (610) 208-8661
- **Palmeton**: Ms. Susan Bierstedt (610) 962-2151
- **Panther Valley**: Ms. Sandra Michalak (570) 645-0386
- **Parkland**: Mrs. Brenda DeRienzo (610) 351-5555
- **Preschool**: Mrs. Janice M. Currin (610) 797-2006
- **Lehigh Career and Technical Institute**: Ms. Kevin Jedwiczyk (610) 962-3300
- **Catasauqua School District**: Dr. George D. Bokoc (610) 487-2787
- **Seven Generations School**: Ms. Diane Kimel (610) 799-1326
- **Lincoln Leadership Academy (Allentown)**: Ms. Nancy S. Mcdonald (484) 860-3300
- **Nonpublic/Private Schools**: Mrs. Mary Lou Moore (610) 767-4111

Screening

Kindergarten screening activities include a review of informal social and health history, developmental areas, functional vision and hearing, and speech and language. Kindergarten screenings are held during the spring at the school district. Further screenings are conducted through the Instructional Support Teams in each school throughout the year for any student that may be in need of special educational services.

Parents who wish to request screening and evaluation for their child may do so by contacting the principal or counselor in their child’s school building.

Evaluations

If you believe your child needs special education services, an evaluation will be conducted by a team. The team shall be composed of the parents, persons familiar with the child’s development, persons knowledgeable in such areas of suspected disability, persons trained in the appropriate evaluation techniques and, if possible, persons familiar with the child’s cultural background. All information gathered through the screening and/or re-evaluation process is considered confidential under Section 438 of the General Education Provisions Act.

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Helping Children Learn

"CLIU is a service agency committed to Helping Children Learn."

To view Annual Notification of Rights under FERPA for Elementary and Secondary Schools, contact page to next page.

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The Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit is a rural opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, marital status, sex or non-relevant handicap in activities, programs or employment practices. For information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures, contact Ms. Deborah Popson, Section 504 Coordinator, or Ms. Michele E. Edwards, SPHR, Title IX and ADA Coordinator, at the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit, 1210 Independence Drive, Schnecksville PA 18078-2540, 800-223-4821.
Annual Notification of Rights under FERPA for
Elementary and Secondary Schools

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and Pennsylvania law affords parents/guardians and
students eighteen (18) years of age and older ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education
records. These rights are:

(1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within forty five (45) days of the LEA's (Local
Education Agency) receipt of a written request for access.

Parents or eligible students making such requests should submit to the appropriate LEA official a written request
that identifies the record(s) s/he wishes to inspect. The LEA official will make arrangements for access and notify the
parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If, upon inspection, a parent or
eligible student requests copies of such records, a fee may be charged.

(2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes
is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.

Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the LEA to amend a record should write the appropriate LEA official,
clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the LEA decides not
to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the LEA will notify the parent or eligible student of
the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information
regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a
hearing.

(3) The right to consent to disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education
records, except to the extent that FERPA and State law authorizes disclosure without consent.

Disclosure of personally identifiable information can be made without consent to the following:

a. School officials, including teachers, with a legitimate need to review an educational record in order to fulfill their
professional responsibilities. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an
educational record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. The LEA maintains a list of these school
officials.

b. Officials of another school or school system in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if
the disclosure is for purposes of the student’s enrollment or transfer.

(4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the LEA to
comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-8520

(5) The right to refuse to permit the designation of any or all of the categories of directory information.

The LEA is permitted by law to disclose directory information without written consent of the parent or eligible
student. The parent or eligible student has the right to refuse to permit the designation of any or all of the categories of
directory information if a written refusal is forwarded to the LEA by the start of the current school term.

Directory information which may be released may include the student’s name, address, phone contact, date and
place of birth; major field of study; participation in officially recognized activities and sports; weight and height of
members of athletic teams; dates of attendance; degrees and awards received; the most recent and previous education
agency or institution attended by the student; and other similar information.

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