

## **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 Lehigh 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, Lehigh 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

Allentown School District  
Catasauqua Area School District  
East Penn School District  
Jim Thorpe Area School District  
Lehigh Area School District  
Northern Lehigh School District  
Northwestern Lehigh School District  
Palmerston Area School District  
Panther Valley School District

Parkland School District  
Salisbury Township School District  
Southern Lehigh School District  
Weatherly Area School District  
Whitehall-Coplay School District  
Carbon Career and Technical Institute  
Lehigh Career and Technical Institute  
Nonpublic/Private Schools  
Preschool

Arts Academy Charter Middle School  
Arts Academy Elementary Charter School  
Circle of Seasons  
Executive Education Academy  
Innovative Arts Academy  
Lincoln Leadership Academy  
Roberto Clemente Charter School  
Roberto Clemente Elementary Charter School  
Seven Generations

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 Support**
  - (a) Gifted Support for students identified as mentally gifted. The focus is to provide instruction beyond the regular curriculum.
  - (b) 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**
  - (a) Deaf or Hard of Hearing for students who are deaf or hard of hearing
  - (b) 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) **Autistic Support**  
For students who are autistic. The focus is primarily to develop daily living skills.
- (8) **Multidisabilities Support**  
For students who are multihandicapped. The focus is on daily living, self-help, and independent living.

### 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 education 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.

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

Allentown, Ms. Belinda Miller (484) 765-4162  
Arts Academy Charter Middle School (Salisbury Township SD), Kathleen Adolt-Silva (610) 351-0234  
Arts Academy Elementary Charter School, (Allentown SD), Rita Richetti (610)841-4560  
Carbon Career and Technical Institute, Ms. Elizabeth Porter (570) 325-3682  
Catasauqua, Mr. Robert Spengler (610) 264-5571  
Circle of Seasons (Northwestern Lehigh SD), Phil Arnold (610) 285-6267  
East Penn, Dr. Linda Pekarik (610) 966-8300  
Executive Education Academy (Allentown SD), Tiffany O'Brien (610) 841-7044  
Innovative Arts Academy Charter School (Catasauqua SD) Steven Gabryluk (610)403-2787  
Jim Thorpe, Mr. Brian Baddick (570) 325-3691  
Lehigh Career and Technical Institute, Ms. Kristin Jachowicz (610) 799-1326  
Lehigh Area School District, Ms. Sean A. LeDonne (610) 377-4490  
Lincoln Leadership Academy (Allentown SD), Sandra Figueroa-Torres (484) 860-3300 x104  
Nonpublic/Private Schools, Mrs. Maryalice Grogan (610) 769-4111  
Northern Lehigh, Ms. Michele Dotta (610) 767-9858  
Northwestern Lehigh, Ms. Andrea Edmonds (610) 298-8661  
Palmerston, Ms. Suzanne Rentschler (610) 826-7101  
Panther Valley, Ms. Sandra Michalik (570) 645-0386  
Parkland, Ms. Brenda DeRenzo (610) 351-5555  
Preschool, Mrs. Jennifer Curtis (610) 769-4111  
Roberto Clemente (Allentown SD), Damian Romero (610) 439-5181  
Roberto Clemente Elem. Charter School (Allentown SD), Audra Young (610) 351-4310  
Salisbury Township, Ms. Elena Steidinger (610) 797-2206  
Seven Generations (East Penn SD), Paul Hunter (610) 421-8844  
Southern Lehigh, Ms. Andria Buchman (610) 282-3121  
Weatherly, Ms. Sandra Slavick (570) 427-8687  
Whitehall-Coplay, Ms. Brooke Clary (610) 439-1431  
Youth Forestry Camp Mrs. Dan Fisher (610) 769-4111

### Preschool Children with Special Needs

Parents who have questions regarding 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 phone CLIU #21, which offers the Early Intervention Program, a preschool program for children with special needs. The Early Intervention Program can provide information, screening, evaluation, programs, therapy, parent involvement, and referral to community agencies at no cost to the parent. For further information phone the CLIU #21 at 1-800-223-4821 or 610-769-4111.

### Nonpublic Schools/Private Schools

Duties owed to students with disabilities enrolled in private schools by their parents are limited to child find activities and a genuine offer of a Free Appropriate Program of Education (FAPE) from the school district of residence. Students unilaterally enrolled in private schools by their parents have a right to participate in services; however, no private school child with a disability is entitled to any particular service or to any amount of service. (300.455(2))

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

## Helping Children Learn

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

The Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit is an equal 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, 4210 Independence Drive, Schnecksville PA 18078-2580, 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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