

# UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

## ANNUAL PUBLIC NOTICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AND PROGRAMS, SERVICES FOR GIFTED STUDENTS AND SERVICES FOR PROTECTED HANDICAPPED STUDENTS

### 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 and intermediate units 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 and intermediate unit 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 and intermediate unit shall publish written information in the handbook and on the website. Special Education services can be provided to eligible children who are ages three through twenty-one. If parents believe that the child may be eligible for special education, the parent should contact their district of residence. Contact information is listed 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 three 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, 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. For additional information contact the Riverview Intermediate Unit Early Intervention Department at (814) 297-5128.

### Evaluation Process

Each school district and intermediate unit 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. Parents of preschool age children, age three through five, may request an evaluation in writing by addressing a letter to the Early Intervention Program Director, Riverview Intermediate Unit; 270 Mayfield Road, Clarion, PA 16214.

### Consent

School entities cannot proceed with an evaluation 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](http://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 educational evaluation at public expense.

### Program Development

Once the evaluation process is completed, a team of qualified professionals and the parents determine whether the child is eligible. If the child is eligible, the individualized education program (IEP) 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 or intermediate unit 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 school districts and to some extent the intermediate unit maintains records concerning 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 states. 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.

### Disposal of State Assessments

The Pennsylvania Department of Education ("PDE") will destroy or have destroyed all test booklets for the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment ("PSSA"), Keystone Exams, and Pennsylvania Alternative System of Assessment ("PASA") one year from the date on which student results are delivered. PDE will also destroy or have destroyed all answer booklets for the PSSA and Keystone exams and all media recordings for the PASA three years from the date on which the assessment is completed.

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 entity listed. For preschool age children, information, screenings and evaluations requested, may be obtained by contacting the intermediate unit.

The school district or intermediate unit 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 era. No preschool, elementary or secondary school pupil enrolled in a school district or intermediate unit 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.

### INTERMEDIATE UNIT

#### Riverview Intermediate Unit

270 Mayfield Road  
Clarion, PA 16214  
814-226-7103 or 800-672-7123 (PA Only)

### SCHOOL DISTRICTS

#### Allegheny-Clarion Valley

776 State Route 58,  
P.O. Box 100  
Foxburg, PA 16036  
724-659-5820

#### Brockway Area

40 North Street  
Brockway, PA 15824  
814-265-8411

#### Brookville Area

104 Jenks Street,  
P.O. Box 479  
Brookville, PA 15825  
814-849-1100

#### Clarion Area

221 Liberty Street  
Clarion, PA 16214  
814-226-6110

#### Clarion County Career Center

447 Career Lane  
Shippensburg, PA 16254  
814-226-4391

#### Clarion-Limestone Area

Clarion-Limestone Area  
4091 C-L School Road  
Strattanville, PA 16258  
814-764-5111

#### Cranberry Area

3 Education Drive  
Seneca, PA 16346  
814-676-5628

#### DuBois Area

500 Liberty Blvd.  
DuBois, PA 15801  
814-371-2700

#### Forest Area

22318 Route 62  
Tionesta, PA 16353  
814-755-4491

#### Franklin Area

702 Liberty Street  
Franklin, PA 16323  
814-432-8917

#### Jeff Tech

576 Vo-Tech Road  
Reynoldsville, PA 15851  
814-653-8265

#### Keystone

451 Huston Avenue  
Knox, PA 16232  
814-797-5921

#### North Clarion County

10439 Route 36  
Tionesta, PA 16353  
814-744-8536

#### Oil City Area

825 Grandview Road  
Oil City, PA 16301  
814-676-1867

#### Punxsutawney Area

475 Beyer Avenue  
Punxsutawney, PA 15767  
814-938-5151

#### Redbank Valley

920 Broad Street  
New Bethlehem, PA 16242  
814-275-2426

#### Titusville Area

302 Spruce Street  
Titusville, PA 16354  
814-827-2715

#### Union

354 Baker Street, Suite 2  
Rimersburg, PA 16248  
814-473-6311

#### Valley Grove

429 Wiley Avenue  
Franklin, PA 16323  
814-432-4919

#### Venango Technology Center

1 Vo-Tech Drive  
Oil City, PA 16301  
814-677-3097