



NORTH EAST SCHOOL DISTRICT

50 EAST DIVISION STREET • NORTH EAST, PENNSYLVANIA 16428
TELEPHONE (814) 725-8671 • FAX (814) 725-9380

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

Notice to Parents

The North East School District hereby notifies parents and guardians of children with disabilities aged 3-21 of the availability of Special Education Services, under the requirements of Chapter 14 of the School Code, to meet these children's unique educational needs. Every school has a screening and evaluation process to identify students who may require Special Education Services. If parents or guardians think their child might need Special Education Services or that the child may have a developmental delay, they can refer their child by contacting the supervisor of special education, the principal of the school which the child attends, the school district Central Administration Office, or the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit. Screenings and evaluations occur throughout the year and also during registration for Kindergarten.

Available programs and services, at no cost to parents, include:

- Early Intervention - for children ages 3-5 with developmental delays and disabilities.
- Learning Support - for students with identified disabilities that impact learning such as Specific Learning Disabilities, Intellectual Disabilities, Autism, and Other Health Impairments.
- Autistic Support - for students identified with Autism or a Pervasive Developmental Disorder.
- Emotional Support - for students with emotional problems or mental health disorders.
- Sensory Support - for students who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Blind, or Visually Impaired.
- Physical Support - for students with physical disabilities requiring extensive accommodations.
- Life Skills Support - for students with moderate to severe disabilities who require instruction in daily living skills.
- Speech and Language Support - for students with speech or language disorders.

*Some services for NESD are provided through coordination with the Tri-County Intermediate Unit 5.

IDEA 2004 states that early intervention services must be provided to infants and toddlers with developmental delays or established risk conditions. Children aged 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 percent 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, you may contact the Early Intervention Department at Intermediate Unit 5.

Evaluation Process

North East School District has a procedure in place by which parents can request an evaluation. Parents may request an evaluation in writing by addressing a letter to either the Special Education Supervisor or Principal of the school their child attends. Upon receipt of this request, the District will arrange to meet with the parents to discuss their concerns, the special education evaluation process, and answer any questions. Parents of preschool-age children, ages three through five, may request an evaluation in writing by addressing a letter to the Early Intervention Supervisor, NW Tri-County Intermediate Unit #5, 252 Waterford St., Edinboro, PA 16412 or call 1-800-677-8461.

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 on the PaTTAN website at www.pattan.net. Once written parental consent is obtained, the school 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 the parents determine whether the child is eligible for and in need of special education services. If the child is eligible, the individualized education program (IEP) team meets, develops the program, and determines the educational placement. Once the IEP develops the program and determines the educational placement, school district 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 North East School District maintains records concerning all children enrolled in the school, including students with disabilities. All records are maintained with the strictest confidentiality. Parental consent, or the 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 by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The age of majority in Pennsylvania is 21. North East School District must protect the confidentiality of personally identifiable information at the collection, storage, disclosure, and destruction stages. One official at each participating agency must assume responsibility for ensuring the confidentiality of any personally identifiable information. North East School District must maintain, for public inspection, a current listing of the names and positions of employees throughout the district who have access to personally identifiable information.

For additional information related to student records, the parent can refer to the FERPA at the following URL: <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>

Section 504/Chapter 15

Parents of children who do not require special education are protected by the regulations of Chapter 15 of the School Code. North East School District is 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. Parents who feel their child may be a child with a “protected handicap” should contact the principal of the school their child attends or the Supervisor of Special Education for the North East School District.

Gifted Services

The North East School District is 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. Parents who feel their child may be gifted should contact the principal of the school their child attends for more information. If a student is both gifted and eligible for Special Education, the procedure in IDEA and Chapter 14 shall take precedence.

In addition to this public notice, the School District shall publish written information in the student handbook, in the annual school calendar, and on the website. The district shall also make this public notice available through additional publications provided to the North East community.

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, children thought to be gifted, and their parents. For more information, or to request an evaluation or screening of a school-aged child, please contact the school principal or:

Brianne Hodges
Supervisor of Special Education
North East School District
50 East Division Street
North East, PA 16428
814-725-8671 x. 3018
bhodges@nesd1.org

For additional information regarding the screening and evaluation of a preschool-aged child, please contact:

Special Education Department
Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit #5
252 Waterford Street
Edinboro, PA 16412
1-800-677-5610
christine_carucci@iu5.org

The North East School District does 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 the school district 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.

"The Mission of the North East School District is to challenge, empower, and engage all students to develop and achieve personal and career aspirations, to pursue lifelong learning, and to be responsible and accountable citizens in a dynamic world."