

CLASSIFIED

Public Notices

CHILD FIND AND ANNUAL NOTICE TO PARENTS (CFR 300.125)

In compliance with state and federal law, the districts listed above will provide to each protected handicapped student without discrimination or cost to the student or family, those related aids, services or accommodations which are needed to provide equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits of the school program and extracurricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate to the student's abilities. In order to qualify as a protected handicapped student the child must be of school age with a physical or mental disability, which substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to an aspect of the school program.

These services and protections for "protected handicapped students" are distinct from those applicable to all eligible or exceptional students enrolled (or seeking enrollment) in special education programs.

For further information on the evaluation procedures and provision of services to protected handicapped students or eligible students, contact the appropriate district contact listed above.

Each school district, along with other public agencies in the Commonwealth, must establish and implement procedures to identify, locate and evaluate all children who need special education programs and services because of the child's disability. This notice is to help find these children, offer assistance to parents and describe the parent's rights with regard to confidentiality of information that will be obtained during the process. Each school district shall also conduct awareness activities to inform the public of gifted education services and programs and the manner by which to request these services and programs.

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/IU (see contacts) and request an explanation.

Intermediate Unit 1 acts as a MAWA, a public education agency provides early intervention to eligible three to five year olds who live in Fayette, Greene and Washington Counties. Throughout the notice, the reader will find references to the IU, the MAWA, or to the MAWA agency—all referring to Intermediate Unit 1 for the purposes of this notice.

IDENTIFICATION ACTIVITY

Child Find refers to activities undertaken by public education agencies to identify, locate, and evaluate children residing in the State, including children attending private schools, who are suspected of having disabilities, regardless of the severity of their disability, and determine the child's need for special education and related services. The purpose is to locate these children so that a free appropriate public education (FAPE) can be made available. The types of disabilities, that if found to cause a child to need services are: Autism, deaf-blindness, deafness, emotional disturbance, hearing impairment, mental retardation, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment due to chronic or acute health problems, specific learning disabilities, speech or language, traumatic brain injury and visual impairment including blindness, in the case of a child that is of preschool age developmental delay. Screening activities are also conducted to determine student need for gifted support services.

The aforementioned school districts provide educational services for all eligible students either through district-operated classes, contracts with Intermediate Unit #1, or Approved Private Schools. Classes providing Learning Support, Life-Skills Support, Emotional Support, Physical Support, Multiple Disabilities Support, and Autistic Support are available for students at beginning school age through age 21, if necessary. Additional services include hearing, vision, and speech and language support. Students found to meet eligibility criteria as "mentally gifted" may receive services through district's Gifted Support programs.

Each school district is required to annually provide notice describing the identification activities and the procedures followed to ensure confidentiality of personally identifiable information. This notice is intended to meet this requirement.

Identification activities are performed to find a child who is suspected as having a disability that would interfere with his or her learning unless special education programs and services are made available. Children suspected of being "mentally gifted" who need specially designed instruction not ordinarily provided in the regular education program also go through screening activities. The activities include: review of group data, conduct hearing and vision screening, assessment of student's academic functioning, observation of the student displaying difficulty in behavior and determining the student's response to attempted remediation. Input from parents is also an information source for identification. After a child is identified as a suspected child with a disability, he or she is evaluated, but is not evaluated before parents give permission for their child to be evaluated.

The school district will follow procedures outlined in the special education regulations (Chapter 14) for determining eligibility and need for special education services. Chapter 16 regulations will be followed to determine eligibility and need for Gifted Support services.

Each LEA's public outreach awareness system includes methods for reaching homeless children, wards of the state, children with disabilities attending private schools, and highly mobile children, including migrant children.

CONFIDENTIALITY (CFR 300.127)

If after screening, a disability is suspected, upon your permission, your child will be evaluated. Written records of the results are called an education record, which are directly related to your child and are maintained by the school districts. These records are personally identifiable to your child. Personally identifiable information includes the child's name, the name of the child's parents or other family member, the address of the child or their family, a personal identifier such as social security number, a list of characteristics that would make the child's identity easily traceable or other information that would make the child's identity easily traceable.

The school district will gather information regarding your child's physical, mental, emotional and health functioning through testing and assessment, observation of your child, as well as through review of any records made available to the school district through your physician and other providers of services such as day care agencies.

The school district protects the confidentiality of personally identifiable information by one school official being responsible for ensuring the confidentiality of the records, training being provided to all persons using the information, and maintaining for public inspection a current list of employee's names and positions who may have access to the information. The school district will inform you when this information is no longer needed to provide educational services to your child and will destroy the information at designated intervals, except general information such as your child's name, address, phone number, grades, attendance record and classes attended, grade level completed, may be maintained without time limitation.

As the parent of the child you have a number of rights regarding the confidentiality of your child's records. The right to inspect and review any education records related to your child are collected, maintained, or used by the school district. The school district will comply with a request for you to review the records without unnecessary delay before any meetings regarding planning for your child's special education program (called an IEP meeting). Should you and your school district disagree about your child's special education supports and services and a due process hearing is requested, the school district will furnish you with the opportunity to inspect and review your child's records, within 30 days.

You have the right to an explanation and interpretations of the records, to be provided copies of the records if failure to provide the copies would effectively prevent you from exercising your right to inspect and review the records, and the right to have a representative inspect and review the records. This review is conducted with the assistance of an appropriate school district staff member.

Upon your request, the school district will provide you a list of the types and location of education records collected, maintained, or used by the agency. Additionally, the school district will charge a fee for copies of records made in response to your request except, it will not charge a fee if doing so will prevent you from inspecting and reviewing your child's records. A current list of reasonable fees relative to records request is available in the district's central office. The district will not charge a fee to search or retrieve information.

You have the right to request in writing the amendment of your child's education records that you believe are inaccurate or misleading, or violate the privacy or other rights of your child. The school district will decide whether to amend the records within 45 school days of receipt of your request. If the school district refuses to amend the records you will be notified of the refusal and your right to a hearing. You will be given at that time, additional information regarding the hearing procedures. Upon written request, the district will schedule and provide written notice of the hearing to challenge information in your child's education files.

Parent consent is required before personally identifiable information contained in your child's education records is disclosed to anyone other than officials of the school district collecting or using the information for purposes of identification of your child, locating your child and evaluating your child or for any other purpose of making available a free appropriate public education to your child. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Additionally, the school district, upon request, discloses records without consent to officials of another school district in which your child seeks or intends to enroll.

A parent may file a written complaint with the Pennsylvania Department of Education at the address below alleging that the rights described in this notice were not provided.

Public Notices

Pennsylvania Department of Education Bureau of Special Education Division of Compliance 333 Market Street Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

The Department of Education will investigate the matter, issue a report of findings and necessary corrective action within 60 days. The Department will take necessary action to ensure compliance is achieved.

Complaints alleging failures of the school district with regard to confidentiality of personally identifiable information may also be filed with:

Family Policy Compliance Office U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Ave, SW Washington, DC 20202-4605

In accordance with 34 CFR § 300.624, please be advised of the following retention/destruction schedule for the Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment (PASA), Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA), and Keystone Exam related materials:

- PSSA, Keystone Exam, and PASA test booklets will be destroyed one year after student reports are delivered for the administration associated with the test booklets.
- PSSA and Keystone Exam answer booklets and PASA media recordings will be destroyed three years after completion of the assessment.

The school districts listed above will provide ongoing screening services. If you wish to learn more, have questions, or believe your child may need to be identified, please contact your local school district contact.

EARLY INTERVENTION IDENTIFICATION

In Pennsylvania, a child between three years of age and the school district's age to begin school who has a developmental delay or one or more of the physical or mental conditions listed above, will be identified as an "eligible young child." The parents of these children have the same rights described above.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education is responsible for providing programs and services to eligible young children under Act 212 of 1990, the Early Intervention Services System Act. Screening for preschool children is available through the Child Alert Program operated by Intermediate Unit #1. To schedule an appointment for screening call IU1 at 1.800.328.6481. For additional information, contact your local school district.

POTENTIAL INDICATORS OF WEAKNESSES IN THE DEVELOPMENTAL DOMAIN AREAS AND OTHER RISK FACTORS THAT COULD INDICATE A DISABILITY (Requirement of Section 14.1212(b))

A developmental delay is determined by the results of a developmental evaluation. The results of one or more domain areas (adaptive, personal-social, communication, motor or cognitive) have to show at least a 25% delay or a score of 1.5 standard deviations below the mean (Standard Score of 77 or below). The delay results in the need for specially designed intervention/ instruction (SDI) in order to participate in typical activities and routines.

Children with a developmental delay may show weaknesses in the following areas:

Adaptive - Pre-kindergarten aged children with a developmental delay may have difficulty dressing/ undressing; using utensils to eat, removing shoes without assistance, distinguishing between nonfood/ food substances, or have difficulty with toileting needs. One may have difficulty moving independently around the house, understanding that hot is dangerous, putting away toys when asked, indicating an illness or ailment to an adult, or demonstrating caution and avoiding common dangers.

Personal-Social - Pre-kindergarten aged children with a developmental delay may have difficulty responding positively to adult praise, rewards or promise of rewards; greeting familiar adults spontaneously, enjoying simple stories read aloud, helping with simple household tasks, initiating social interaction with familiar adults, expressing affection/liking for peers, playing cooperatively with peers, stating first name, last name, age, or whether he is a male/female; using objects in make-believe play, using 'I' or 'me' to refer to himself, or recognizing facial expressions of common emotions.

Communication - Pre-kindergarten aged children with a developmental delay may have difficulty following 2-step verbal commands, associating spoken words with pictures, recalling events from a story presented orally; engaging in extended and meaningful nonverbal exchanges with others, using words to get his needs met, responding to 'yes' and 'no' questions appropriately, or asking 'wh' questions.

Motor - Pre-kindergarten aged children with a developmental delay may have difficulty running without falling, kicking a ball without falling, walking up and down steps alternating feet without assistance, walking backward, imitating the bilateral movements of an adult, pointing with his index finger independent of the thumb and other fingers, scribbling linear and/or circular patterns spontaneously, using the pads of fingertips to grasp a pencil, holding a paper with one hand while drawing or writing with the other hand, fastening clothing without assistance, cutting with scissors, copying a circle, or imitating vertical and horizontal markings.

Cognitive - Pre-kindergarten aged children with a developmental delay may have difficulty attending to one activity for 3 or more minutes, reciting memorized lines from songs or TV shows, showing interest in age-appropriate books, matching/naming colors, responding to one and one more, giving three objects on request, matching shapes, identifying objects by their use, identifying items by size, identifying colors of familiar objects not in view, or identifying simple objects by touch.

OTHER FACTORS THAT COULD INDICATE A DISABILITY

Developmental disabilities are birth defects related to a problem with how a body part or body system works. They may also be known as functional birth defects. Many of these conditions affect multiple body parts or systems. Researchers have identified thousands of different birth defects. Birth defects can have a variety of causes, such as:

- Genetic problems caused when one or more genes doesn't work properly or part of a gene is missing, problems with chromosomes, such as having an extra chromosome or missing part of a chromosome, environmental factors that the expectant mother is exposed to during pregnancy, such as Rubella or German measles or if she uses drugs or alcohol during pregnancy.

FACTORS CONSIDERED WHEN DETERMINING MENTAL GIFTEDNESS

1. The child performs a year or more above grade achievement level in one or more subjects as measured by a nationally normed and validated achievement test.
2. The child demonstrates rates of acquisition/retention of content and skills reflecting gifted ability.
3. The child demonstrates achievement, performance, or expertise in one or more academic areas as evidenced by products, portfolios or research, as well as criterion-referenced team judgment.
4. The child demonstrates early and measured use of high level thinking skills, academic creativity, leadership skills, intense academic interest, communication skills, foreign language aptitude, or technology expertise.
5. The child demonstrates that intervening factors such as English as a second language, disabilities, gender or race bias, or socio/cultural deprivation are masking gifted abilities.

SPECIAL EDUCATION LIAISON PERSONNEL (LEA's) *All phone & fax numbers are (724) area code

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Administrative Offices

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UNIONTOWN AREA Dr. Kelly Swartz

Uniontown High School

205 Wilson Street
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Fax 437-2868
kelly.swartz@uasdraiders.org

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Festivals

- BELLE VERNON - The First Presbyterian Church of Belle Vernon, located at 501 Fayette St. will hold its annual Peach Festival & Car Show on Sat, Aug 12 from 10-3. Call 724-929-7616
- PT MARION - St Hubert Church is celebrating their annual Heritage Festival on Sat, Sept 9th from 4-9pm. Located at 9 Sadler St. Join us for a day of fellowship, raffles, games, craft store, bake sale, good food & dancing to the music of the "The Vibrations". There will be a 4:00pm Polka mass with music provided by The Vibrations. Everyone is welcome, please join us.

Fundraising

- HOPWOOD - The Fayette Veterans Advocacy Association will be holding a Car Show & Spaghetti Dinner on Sat., Aug. 19 at the Amvets Post 103 parking lot. Registration begins at 11 & the cost is \$10. Dinner starts at noon. Meals are \$10/adults; \$5/children 12 & under. A basket raffle & 50/50 will be held. DJ Jason will be providing the music. For more info, call 724-438-2906.

Religious

- BROWNSVILLE - On Monday evenings Aug. 7, 14, 21, & 28, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. the addiction recovery ministry There is Hope, a Christ centered 12-step program, will be held at Malden Christian Fellowship (343 Old National Pike). This ministry will meet every week on Mondays. It is open to those in recovery & those struggling with addiction as well as their family members or loved ones. For more info, on this meeting or access to the zoom meeting, please call 724-434-4597 or 724-785-3042.

Community

- BROWNSVILLE - The St. Vincent de Paul-sponsored food bank will be held on Wed, Aug 16, at the parking lot of the St. Mary's Social Hall (118 Church St) from 11 through noon. The food will be loaded directly into your car. Families must be registered with FCCAA in order to receive food. Anyone who is not registered and lives in the Brownville Area must complete the required paperwork before receiving their food and those who register on the day of the food bank are not guaranteed a box of food at the site. Families wishing to sign up on the distribution day will need to bring photo id, the date of birth of each person in the household, and verification of address.
- GRINDSTONE - There will be car cruises the first Monday of the month starting in July, at 6225 National Pike East near the exit of the Brownsville Drive In Theater from 5-8pm. Door prizes 50/50, food specials & oldies music provided by WMBS DJ Arnie Amber. For more info, call Bill at 724-785-4000.
- UNIONTOWN - There will be a car cruise every Friday night at the Uniontown Shopping Center on Morgantown Rd. starting on May 5 & ending Sept. 29. They will start at 5:30 & continue until dusk. Door prizes, 50/50 & oldies music provided by WMBS DJ Arnie Amber. For more info, call Arnie at 724-970-4283.

Edu/Classes

- AVONMORE - Seniors for Safe Driving. Senior Citizen Driver Improvement Course. Avonmore Senior Center, Avonmore, PA 15618. Aug. 15, 10am-2:30pm. To register, call 1-800-559-4880 or 724-283-0245 or visit www.SeniorsForSafeDriving.com

Fundraisers

- BELLE VERNON - Mon Valley Paws Events: Yappy hour- every Thursday during the month of August at DAWGS 110 Sara Way. MVP receive 10% of the sale. Call 724-493-8305

- WEST NEWTON - Join us at the West Newton Senior Center Thurs., Aug. 31st at noon for lunch & a free show featuring the acapella quartet 3Rivers4. Reservations Required! Show tickets are free but reservations are required by 08/23. Lunch includes turkey chef salad, veg soup, gelatin, & a milk. Lunch is a \$2 donation for those age 60 & up, or \$3.97 for those age 59 & under. This free entertainment program is funded in part by a grant from the Westmoreland County Parks & Recreation, the Westmoreland Library Network, and the West Newton Public Library. To register, 724-872-4976.

Health

- UNIONTOWN Lions Club Pet Clinic. Please have your pet on a leash or in a carrier. Uniontown Mall (Old Sears Garden Center, 1368 Mall Run Rd.) Sat., Aug. 12, 10am-1pm. DVM Dr. Laurie Joseph - Top Notch Veterinary Services, 1565 Rte. 31. Mt. Pleasant. 724-547-1964; topnotchvet@zoominternet.net. Lions Conact: 724-880-2547.

Meetings

- BETHEL PARK - The monthly meeting of the South Hills Coin Club will be held Tuesday evening Aug 8 at 7:30 PM at the Bethel Park municipal building located at 5100 West Library Ave. All members & the general public are invited. This month's program will be on Americas first medals. A 50/50 will be offered & children's prizes to be awarded. Applications are now being accepted for membership. For more info call 724-984-6611.
- HOPWOOD - The Amvets Ladies Auxiliary 103 will hold their annual covered dish picnic on Mon., Aug. 7 at 5pm at the post. Auxiliary members are asked to bring a covered dish & may also bring a guest. The Auxiliary will provide chicken & rolls. There will also be a short meeting following the meal. Hope to see you there!
- HOPWOOD - The Fayette Co. Historical Society will meet Mon., Aug. 14 at 6 pm at the AmVets. The speaker will be author, Erick Moskala. A social & brief business meeting will follow the program. The public is invited to attend.
- MONONGAHELA - The Monongahela Veterans Council will meet at VFW 1409 - Black Diamond, 793 E. Main St on Fri., Aug. 11 @ 7PM. We will be discussing the upcoming events & activities scheduled for this year. All interested parties are welcome to attend.
- UNIONTOWN - If you have been affected by someone's addiction - alcohol, etc. Al-Anon groups meet on Wednesdays at 7:30 at Trinity Church (Fayette St. entrance). Friday's meetings are held at 6:30 at the Connellsville Christian Church on Pittsburgh Street. Both meetings are open to the public.
- UNIONTOWN - Saint Mary's Golden Club will meet on Mon, Aug 14 at 1:30 PM at the Eat' Park restaurant. New members are always welcome including parishioners from all four parishes. Come out & join us for some afternoon social time.

Reunions

- CONNELLSVILLE - Ulery Reunion (descendants of William & Mary Jane "Jennie" Martin Ulery) to be held Sat, Aug 12 at: Breakneck Church Fellowship Hall, 816 Breakneck Rd. The Hall will be open at 11am, lunch at 12:30pm. Coffee, lemonade & eating utensils will be provided. Bring a covered dish & join in the fun!

Other

- BELLE VERNON - Mon Valley Paws Events: Ice cream social & bath time - Aug 12 from 10-2. Pet Supplies Plus, 112 Sara Way. All dogs who are bathed will receive \$10. Donations accepted. 724-493-8305



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