

Duquesne City School District

300 KENNEDY AVENUE * DUQUESNE PENNSYLVANIA 15110 * PHONE: 412-466-5300 * FAX: 412-469-3625

CHILD FIND NOTICE

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 are required to inform parents of the rights and responsibilities regarding Child Find. 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 in relation to Section 504, Chapter 15 services, the parent may refer to Section 504, Section 15, and the Basic Education Circular entitled "*Implementation of Chapter 15*". School districts are also required to conduct Child Find activities for children who may be eligible for gifted services via 22 PA Code, Chapter 16. If a student is both gifted and eligible for Special Education, the procedure 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. Children aged three through twenty-one can be eligible for special education programs and services. If parents believe that the child may be eligible for special education, the parent should contact their district of residence.

Children age through the residing school district's age of beginner students are also eligible if they have developmental delays or one or more of the physical or mental commissions as defined in Chapter 14 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 yield a score in months, indicates that a 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, and social/emotional and self-help. For additional information contact your local intermediate unit. Duquesne City School District's local unit is: The Allegheny

Intermediate Unit.

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 pre-school aged children, aged three to five, may request an evaluation by contacting Allegheny Intermediate Unit, DART program at 412-394-5904.

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. 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.

Confidentiality of Information

The school district and to some extent the local intermediate unit maintain records concerning children enrolled in the school, including students with disabilities. All records are maintained in the strictest of confidence. 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 stages. 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.

For additional information related to student records, parents / guardians can refer to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

This notice is only a summary of the special education services, evaluations and screening activities, and rights and protections pertaining to children with disabilities, children thought to be disabled, and their parents / guardians. For more

information or to request evaluation or screening of a public or private school child, contact the responsible entities listed below. For pre-school age children, information, screenings and evaluations request may be obtained by contacting the intermediate unit.

Special Education Consultant

412-466-5300, ext. 3008

Or

Duquesne City School District LEA

412-466-5300, ext. 2997