

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION SUPPORT - CHILD FIND (§300.125)**

The Allentown School District provides special education support and services for special needs children.

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES**

If your child is found eligible, an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) would be developed that specifically describes the supports and services your child needs. Allentown School District provides the following types of programs and services:

- Learning Support
- Emotional Support
- Life Skills Support
- Deaf or Hearing Impairment Support
- Blind or Visually Impaired Support
- Speech and Language Support
- Physical Support
- Autistic Support
- Multi-handicapped Support
- Early Intervention Support

### **SCREENING**

The District offers a screening support service known as the Instruction Support Team (IST) to assist in the identification of students who may be struggling academically, behaviorally, or emotionally. If you feel your child may benefit from the support of the Instructional Support Team, call your child's principal to request help from the IST. IST is not special education, it is problem-solving process to benefit your child.

### **EVALUATION**

If you believe your child may need special education services, a multidisciplinary evaluation (MDE) will be conducted by a multidisciplinary team (MDT). The team is composed of the child's parent, individuals familiar with child development, individuals knowledgeable of in areas of the suspected disability, individuals trained in appropriate evaluation techniques and, if possible, individuals 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. A written request for an evaluation may be made by the parent and provided to your child's principal.

### **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 call Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit – Project Connect at 1-800-223-4821 or 610-769-4111. Project Connect and the Allentown School District offer preschool programs for children with special needs. Project Connect can provide information regarding screening, evaluation, programs, therapy, parent involvement, and referral to community agencies at no cost to parents.

### **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))

Any questions regarding special education supports or services, or child-find activities may be directed to: Mr. Brian Siket, Director of Special Education 484-765-4070.

## **GIFTED EDUCATION SUPPORT - CHILD FIND (22 Pa. Code Chapter 16)**

The Allentown School District provides gifted education support for exceptional children.

### **GIFTED EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES**

If your child is found eligible, a Gifted Individualized Education Plan (GIEP) would be developed that specifically describes the supports and services your child would receive. Allentown School District provides the exceptional child with a variety of program services that offer acceleration and enrichment.

### **SCREENING**

Through a variety of screening methods, the District systematically reviews multiple sources of information in order to find children who demonstrate accelerated, superior, or gifted qualities. The screening process may include a review of the student's performance on group ability and achievement assessments, class work, performance-based assessments, verbal and non-verbal measures, teacher observation, and parental input. This multi-criteria process broadens the scope of individuals who may be considered for a more comprehensive evaluation by looking at the critical aspects of aptitude, characteristics, and performance.

### **EVALUATION**

If you believe your child may qualify for gifted services, a gifted multidisciplinary evaluation (GMDE) will be conducted by a gifted multidisciplinary team (GMDT). The GMDT will be formed on the basis of the student's needs and will be comprised of the student's parents, a certified school psychologist, persons familiar with the student's educational experience and performance, one or more of the student's current teachers, persons trained in the appropriate evaluation techniques and, when possible, persons familiar with the student's cultural background. A single member of the GMDT may meet two or more of the qualifications specified in this subsection. All information gathered through the screening and/or re-evaluation process is considered confidential under Section 438 of the General Education Provisions Act.

Parents who suspect that their child is gifted may request a gifted multidisciplinary evaluation of their child at any time, with a limit of one request per school term. The request shall be in writing. If a parental request is made orally to school personnel, the personnel will inform the parents that the request shall be made in writing and will provide the parents with a form for that purpose.

Any questions regarding gifted education supports or services, or child-find activities may be directed to: Mr. Brian Siket, Director of Special Education 484-765-4070

