

## Williams Valley School District

### Annual Public Notice of Special Education Services and Programs

#### INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2004

The Williams Valley School District is required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 ("IDEA") to provide a free, appropriate, public education ("FAPE") to "children with disabilities." Pursuant to the IDEA, students are considered to be children with disabilities if they need special education and related services and have one or more of the following physical or mental disabilities:

- Autism • Orthopedic Impairment • Deaf-Blindness • Other Health Impairment • Emotional Disturbance • Specific Learning Disability • Hearing Impairment including Deafness • Speech or Language Impairment • Mental Retardation • Traumatic Brain Injury • Multiple Disabilities • Visual Impairment including Blindness

- Autism
- Deaf-Blindness
- Emotional Disturbance
- Hearing Impairment including Deafness
- Intellectual Disability
- Multiple Disabilities
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Other Health Impairments
- Specific Learning Disability
- Speech or Language Impairment
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Visual Impairment including Blindness

The IDEA further requires the provision of FAPE to children with disabilities between the age of three and the school district's age of beginners known as "eligible young children." The Schuylkill County Intermediate Unit provides early intervention services and programs to eligible young children located within the Williams Valley School District. All children learn and grow at different rates. Children who are developing more slowly than other children their age may need Early Intervention Services. Delays in the following developmental milestones can alert parents to the potential need for Early Intervention Services:

- Physical Development (ability to move, see, and hear)
- Language Communication Development (ability to talk or express needs)
- Social and Emotional Development (ability to relate to others)
- Self-Help Adaptive Development (ability to eat, dress, and take care of themselves)
- Cognitive Development (ability to think and learn)

In order to obtain additional information please contact the Early Intervention Administrator listed at the conclusion of this notice.

Services for infants and toddlers from birth to age 2 are the responsibility of the Department of public Welfare. In order to obtain additional information please contact Services Access and Management Inc. at (570) 621-2700.

## SERVICES FOR PROTECTED HANDICAPPED STUDENTS

The Williams Valley School District must provide services to and may not discriminate against “protected handicapped students” in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. A protected handicapped student is a student who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities, has a record of such impairment or is regarded as having such impairment. Protected handicapped students may qualify for special services to ensure equal opportunity to participate in the school program including extracurricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate for the individual student.

## GIFTED EDUCATION

In Pennsylvania, school age students qualify to receive specially designed instruction when they have been evaluated and identified as “mentally gifted.” A student is mentally gifted when he or she has outstanding intellectual and creative ability that requires specially designed programs or support services not ordinarily provided in the regular education program. The Williams Valley School District will determine whether a student is mentally gifted based upon multiple criteria, including I.Q. score. The determination of gifted ability will not be based on I.Q. score alone.

## SCREENING AND EVALUATION

If you believe that your child may be in need of a special education program, a screening and special education evaluation are available to you at no cost through the school district. The special education evaluation will determine if your child qualifies for special education services. The special education programs include a full continuum of services to students in both district-operated classes as well as classes provided by the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit (IU 29). The district makes every effort to provide these services in the least restrictive environment.

You may request screening and evaluation at any time, whether or not your child is enrolled in the district’s public school program. Requests for screening and evaluation may be made by calling the office listed below or your child’s building principal and will be kept confidential. If you believe that your child may qualify for services as an eligible young child, you may contact the Schuylkill County Intermediate Unit directly at (570) 544-9131.

The Williams Valley School District is committed to providing a continuum of services and programs to all children with special needs that provides the opportunity to access the general curriculum of the district in the least restrictive environment.

### **Notice of Rights under Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974**

Williams Valley School District is required to protect the confidentiality of personally identifiable information of students in accordance with federal law and state and federal rules and regulations. The rights and privacy of students include the following:

- The right to inspect and review the student’s educational records within forty-five days of the date that the educational agency receives a request for access to the records.
  - > A written request, identifying the record(s) to be inspected, should be submitted to the building administrator of the school where the student attends.
- The right to request that the student’s educational records be amended if the parent/guardian believes the records to be inaccurate or violates the privacy or other rights of the student.
  - > A written request identifying what record(s) are seeking to be amended and why should be submitted to the building administrator of the school where the student attends.
  - > The school will notify the parent/guardian, in writing, of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding their request for amendment of the record(s).
- The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s educational records, except to the extent that federal and state law authorize disclosure without consent.
- The right to file a complaint with the U. S. Department of Education at the Family Policy Compliance Office concerning alleged failures by the educational agency to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

**Contact information:**

Williams Valley Elementary School: Stephanie Carl, Principal 717-647-2167

Williams Valley Jr. Sr. H.S.: Tracy Weller, Principal 717-647-2167

Williams Valley Special Education Supervisor: Tammy Chrin 717-647-2167

Schuylkill County Intermediate Unit: Lynda Yordy 570 544-9131 extension 1222.(pre-school services)

Williams Valley Website: [www.wvschools.net](http://www.wvschools.net)

