

## Chapter 14: Special Education Services and Programs State Regulations

In compliance with state and federal law, notice is hereby given by the Pen Argyl Area School District that it conducts ongoing identification activities as part of its school program for the purpose of identifying students who may be in need of special education and related services (eligible students). If your child is identified by the district as possibly in need of such services, you will be notified of applicable procedures. Individualized services and programs are available for children who are determined to need specially designed instruction due to the following disabilities:

1. Autism
2. Deaf-Blindness
3. Deafness
4. Developmental Delay
5. Emotional Disturbance
6. Hearing Impairment
7. Intellectual Disability
8. Multiple Disabilities
9. Orthopedic Impairment
10. Other Health Impairment
11. Specific Learning Disability
12. Speech or Language Impairment
13. Traumatic Brain Injury
14. Visual Impairment due to Blindness

If you believe that your school-aged child may be in need of special education services and related programs, or young child (age 3 to school-age) may be in need of early intervention, screening and evaluation processes are designed to assess the needs of the child and his/her eligibility are available to you at no cost, upon request. You may request screening and evaluation at any time, whether or not your child is enrolled in the district's public school program; including children who are homeless, wards of the state, or highly mobile, including migrant children. Requests for evaluation and screening of school-age students are to be made to you child's principal.

Children age 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 exist: (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% 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 can contact Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 at (610)252-5740.

**Confidentiality: All information gathered about your child is subject to the confidentiality provisions contained in federal and state law. The District has policies and procedures in effect governing the collection, maintenance, destruction, and disclosure to third parties of this information. For information about these policies and procedures, as well as rights of confidentiality and access to educational records, you may contact the Special Education Department.**

#### Chapter 15: Protected Handicapped Students

In compliance with state and federal law, the Pen Argyl Area School District 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. If you think your child may be in need of services through Chapter 15, contact his/her guidance counselor and/or building principal.

#### Chapter 16: Gifted Students

In compliance with state regulations, notice is hereby given by the Pen Argyl Area School District that it conducts screening and evaluation activities to locate and identify students within the district who are thought to be mentally gifted and in need of specially designed instruction.

The Gifted Multidisciplinary Evaluation (GMDE) is a process of gathering information that will be used to find out if your child qualifies for gifted education, and, if so, the types of programs and services needed. Part of this process includes an evaluation by

certified school psychologist. You may ask your school to give your child a GMDE at any time. You may ask for this evaluation by contacting the principal of your child's school.

Following the GMDE, a Gifted Written Report (GWR) is prepared that recommends whether your child is mentally gifted and needs specially designed instruction. Mentally gifted is defined as "outstanding intellectual and creative ability the development of which requires specially designed programs or support services, or both, if not ordinarily provided in the regular education program."