

SERVICES AND PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The Palmerton Area School District, either directly or in conjunction with the Carbon-Lehigh Intermediate Unit IU #21, provides programs and services which may be required by special needs students. Screening activities for these services are ongoing throughout each school year. These activities are coordinated by the Child Study or Instructional Support Team in each building. The team is comprised of the building principal, counselor, school psychologist, and teachers. Screening conducted by these teams includes a review of health history (including vision and hearing), informal social history, and an informal assessment of academic, social and development progress. Parents who wish to request screening for their child may do so by contacting the principal or counselor in their child's building. Special education screening and services are also available at no cost to school district residents attending private schools. Parents may request screening for their children attending private schools by contacting Robert Dailey, Director of Student Services Supervisor, at 610-826-7101.

For cases where screening indicates the possibility of a special need, the Director provides Multidisciplinary Evaluation, with parental consent. Such an evaluation is conducted by the Multidisciplinary Team, which is chaired by the school psychologist and is comprised of the parent, building principal, building counselor, school nurse, teacher, and any specialist needed (such as speech, vision, or hearing therapist). Questions regarding the evaluation process may be directed to Robert Dailey at 610-826-7101.

The types of programs and services available to special needs students include:

- Learning Support: for special needs students whose primary identified need is academic learning.
- Life Skills Support: for special needs students with a need to focus primarily on independent living skills.
- Multiple Disabilities Support: for special needs students with more than one disability.
- Gifted Support: for students identified as mentally gifted.
- Hearing Impaired Support: services for students identified as in need of hearing support.
- Visually Impaired Support: services for students identified as in need of vision support.
- Speech Support: services for students with identified needs in the area of speech and language.
- Physical Support: for special needs students whose primary need is due to a physical disability.

Parents with questions regarding these programs may contact Scot Engler at 610-826-7101.

Screening activities, multidisciplinary evaluation, and special needs programs and services are provided without cost to the parent. All information and documents regarding your child's involvement with any of these services is confidential.

Parents of preschoolers within Palmerton Area School District may contact Project CONNECT at the Carbon-Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 directly at 1-800-223-4821 with any concerns over the development of the child in the areas of motor skills, cognitive/early academic skills, social development, self-help skills, and speech/language development. Project CONNECT provides screenings, evaluations, classroom instruction, itinerant, and consultative services for special needs students from age 3 to 5. Parents may refer their child and the staff at

CONNECT for a referral for service. All information regarding your family and child will be kept confidential. Project CONNECT services are available without charge to children and their families.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Palmerton Area School District is an equal opportunity education institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, and handicap in its activities, programs, services, or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504. For information regarding civil rights, activities, and facilities that are accessible to and usable by handicapped persons, or grievance procedure, contact Robert Dailey, Palmerton Area School District, P.O. Box 350, Palmerton, PA 18071, (610) 826-7101, the Title IX and Section 504 coordinator for the Palmerton Area School District.