

Special Education Services for School-Age Exceptional Students

Burrell School District provides a free, appropriate, public education to exceptional students. To qualify as an exceptional student, the child must be of school age, in need of specially-designed instruction and meet eligibility criteria for one or more of the following physical or mental disabilities, as set forth in the Pennsylvania State standards: autism/pervasive developmental disorder, blindness/visual impairment, mental retardation, multi-handicap, neurological impairment, other health impairment, physical disability, emotional disturbance, specific learning disability, and speech/language impairment.

The district engages in identification procedures to ensure that eligible students receive an appropriate educational program consisting of special education and related services, individualized to meet the needs of the respective student. At no cost to the parents, these services are provided in compliance with state and federal law and are reasonably calculated to yield meaningful educational benefit and student progress.

To identify students who may be eligible for special education, various screening activities are conducted on an on-going basis. These screening activities include review of group-based data (cumulative records, enrollment records, health records, report cards, ability and achievement test scores): hearing, vision, physical and speech/language screening; and review by a building-level team. (ESAP- Elementary Student Assistance Program at the elementary level and BEST- Burrell Educational Support Team at the secondary level) When screening results suggest that the student might be exceptional, the district seeks parental consent to conduct a multidisciplinary evaluation at any time through a written request to the school principal. Parents can make a request for an evaluation at any time. The district will provide a form letter for a parent to request an evaluation.

Services designed to meet the needs of exceptional students include the annual development of an Individualized Education Program (IEP), biennial or triennial multidisciplinary reevaluation, supportive intervention in the regular class, supplemental intervention in the regular class or in a special education resource program, placement in a part-time or full-time special education class in a regular school, or placement in a fulltime special education class at location other than the regular school. The extent of special education services and the location for the delivery of such services are determined by the IEP team and are based on the student's identified needs and abilities, chronological age, and the level of intensity of the special intervention. The district also provides related services, such as transportation, physical therapy, and occupational therapy, required for the student to benefit from the special education program.

Parents may obtain information regarding special education services and programs and parental due process rights by contacting the child's school principal or the district's Director of Special Education/LEA, Dr. Gregory Egnor at 724-334-1483 extension 5004. Bon Air Elementary School - Ms. Amy Lenart, Principal at 724-334-1463, Stewart Elementary School - Dr. Gregory Egnor, Principal at 724-334-1483, Charles A. Huston Middle School - Mr. Brian Ferra, Principal at 724-334-1443, Burrell High School - Dr. John C. Boylan, Principal at 724-334-1403.

Services for Protected Handicapped Students

In compliance with state and federal law, Burrell School District will provide protected handicapped students 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.

Services and protections for protected handicapped students are distinct from those applicable to exceptional students enrolled or seeking enrollment in special education programs.

The Burrell School District protects the confidentiality of personally identifiable information regarding exceptional and protected handicapped students in accordance with state and federal law and district policy.

For further information about the evaluation procedures and provision of services to protected handicapped students, again contact the building principal or the district's Director of Special Education/LEA at 724-334-1483 extension 5004.

Services for Preschool Students

Act 212, the Early Intervention Services System Act, entitles all preschool children with disabilities to appropriate early intervention services. Young children experiencing developmental delays or physical or mental disabilities and their families are eligible for early intervention services. At-risk children are eligible for screening or tracking.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education is responsible for providing services to preschool children from ages three through five. For more information contact the Westmoreland Intermediate Unit at 724-836-2460.

Gifted Services

Burrell School District provides an appropriate public education to students who qualify for gifted programs. The District engages in identification procedures to ensure that eligible students receive an appropriate education program. When screening results suggest that a student might qualify for the gifted program, parental consent is obtained for further evaluation. Parents of students enrolled in Burrell School District may obtain additional information about this program from the building principal or the district's Director of Special Education/LEA at 724-334-1483 extension 5004.