

# NOTICE TO PARENTS OF CHILDREN WHO RESIDE IN THE NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Programs for Special Needs Students

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The Northern Lehigh School District, either directly or indirectly through various other education agencies including the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21, provides special education services which may be required by children with special needs. The special education contact person is Michele Dotta, Director of Special Education and the school psychologists are Eugene Marks and Sydney Snyder. They can be contacted at (610) 767-9858 regarding special education services. Similarly, guidance counselors may be contacted regarding specific special education issues at the building level.

### **Guidance counselors and their numbers are as follows:**

Senior High	Raquel Hoffert	(610) 767-9847
Senior High	Allison Chruscial	(610) 767-0767
Middle School	Linda Brown	(610) 767-9815
Slatington Elementary	Suzanne Mengel	(610) 767-9823
Peters Elementary	Kelly Kromer	(610) 767-9825

### **The types of programs and services are:**

- (1) **Academic Support**
  - (a) Gifted Support for exceptional students identified as mentally gifted. The focus is to provide instruction beyond the regular curriculum.
  - (b) Learning Support for exceptional students whose primary identified need is academic learning
- (2) **Life Skills Support**

For exceptional students where the focus is primarily on the needs of students for independent living as well as general daily living skills.
- (3) **Emotional Support**

For exceptional students whose primary identified need is for emotional support. The focus is primarily on behavior management.
- (4) **Sensory Support**
  - (a) Deaf or Hearing Impaired for exceptional students who are deaf or hearing impaired.
  - (b) Blind or Visually Impaired for exceptional students who are blind or visually impaired.
- (5) **Speech and Language Support**

For exceptional students who are speech and language impaired.
- (6) **Physical Support**

For Exceptional students where the program is modified primarily to meet the need of of physically disabled student.
- (7) **Autistic Support**

For exceptional students who are autistic. The focus is primarily to develop daily living skills.

**(8) Multiple Disabilities Support**

For exceptional students who have multiple disabilities. The focus is on daily living, self-help, and independent living.

**Screening**

Kindergarten screening activities include a review of informal social and health history, developmental areas, functional vision and hearing, and speech and language. Further screenings are conducted through the Instructional Support Teams in each school for any student that may need special education services.

Parents who wish to request screening and evaluation for their child may do so by contacting the principal or counselor in their child's school building.

**Evaluations**

If you believe your child needs special education services, a multidisciplinary evaluation (MDE) will be conducted by a multidisciplinary team (MDT). The team shall be composed of the parents, persons familiar with the child's development, persons knowledgeable in such areas of suspected exceptionality, persons trained in the appropriate evaluation techniques and, if possible, persons familiar with the child's cultural background. All information gathered through the screening and/or reevaluation process is considered confidential under Section 438 of the General Education Provisions Act.

**Preschool Children with Special Needs**

Parents who have questions regarding their child's vision, hearing, learning, talking, moving about, manipulating objects, understanding, showing emotions, getting along with others, playing with toys, taking care of himself/herself should phone CLIU #21, which offers Project Connect, a preschool program for children with special needs. Project Connect can provide information, screening, evaluation, programs, therapy, parent involvement, and referral to community agencies at no cost to the parent. For further information please phone Project Connect, CLIU #21 at (610) 769-4111 or 1 (800) 223-4821.