

# SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

## The 14 Member School Districts of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 Provide Special Education Programs for Special Needs Children

Allentown School District  
Catasauqua Area School District  
East Penn School District  
Jim Thorpe Area School District  
Lehighon Area School District  
Northern Lehigh School District  
Northwestern Lehigh School District  
Palmerton Area School District

Panther Valley School District  
Parkland School District  
Salisbury Township School District  
Southern Lehigh School District  
Weatherly Area School District  
Whitehall-Coplay School District  
Carbon Career and Technical Institute

Lehigh Career and Technical Institute  
Lehigh County Detention Center  
Lehigh Valley Hospital Transitions Program  
Nonpublic/Private Schools  
Preschool  
Youth Forestry Camp #2  
Youth Services Agency

The School Districts listed above, either directly or through various other education agencies including CLIU #21 provide special education services which may be required by children with special needs.

Types of programs and services are:

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

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

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

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

For students who are autistic. The focus is primarily to develop daily living skills.
- (8) **Multidisabilities Support**

For students who are multihandicapped. 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. Kindergarten screenings are held during the spring at the school district. Further screenings are conducted through the Instructional Support Teams in each school throughout the year for any student that may be in need of 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, an evaluation will be conducted by a team. The team shall be composed of the parents, persons familiar with the child's development, persons knowledgeable in such areas of suspected disability, 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 re-evaluation process is considered confidential under Section 438 of the General Education Provisions Act.

Questions regarding services for special needs children can be addressed to:

Allentown, Ms. Belinda Miller (484) 765-4162  
Catasauqua, Mr. Robert Spengler (610) 264-5571  
East Penn, Dr. Linda Pekarik (610) 966-8300  
Jim Thorpe, Mr. Brian Baddick (570) 325-3691  
Lehighon, Ms. Sean A. LeDonne (610) 377-4490  
Northern Lehigh, Ms. Michele Dotta (610) 767-9858  
Northwestern Lehigh, Dr. Mark Scott (610) 298-8661  
Palmerton, Mr. Robert Dailey (610) 826-7101  
Panther Valley, Ms. Sandra Michalik (570) 645-0386  
Parkland, Mr. Robert Thornburg (610) 351-5555  
Salisbury Township, Ms. Nora Perron-Jones (610) 797-2062  
Southern Lehigh, Ms. Andria Buchman (610) 282-3121  
Weatherly, Ms. Suzanne Rentschler (570) 427-8687  
Whitehall-Coplay, Ms. Donna Viglianti (610) 439-1431  
Carbon Career and Technical Institute, Ms. Elizabeth Porter (570) 325-3682  
Lehigh Career and Technical Institute, Mr. Darin VanNorman (610) 799-1326  
Lehigh County Detention Center, Ms. Nicole Borland (610) 769-4111  
Lehigh Valley Hospital Transitions Programs, Ms. Lisa Schumacher (610) 769-4111  
Nonpublic/Private Schools, Ms. Nicole Borland (610) 769-4111  
Preschool, Ms. Maryalice Grogan/Ms. Jennifer Curtis (610) 769-4111  
Youth Forestry Camp #2, Ms. Nicole Borland (610) 769-4111  
Youth Services Agency, Ms. Nicole Borland (610) 769-4111

### Preschool Children with Special Needs

Parents who have questions regarding their child's seeing, 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 phone the CLIU #21 at 1-800-223-4821 or 610-769-4111.

### Nonpublic Schools/Private Schools

Duties owed to students with disabilities enrolled in private schools by their parents are limited to child find activities and a genuine offer of a Free Appropriate Program of Education (FAPE) from the school district of residence. Students unilaterally enrolled in private schools by their parents have a right to participate in services; however, no private school child with a disability is entitled to any particular service or to any amount of service. (300.455(2))



To view Annual Notification of Rights under FERPA for Elementary and Secondary Schools, continue to next page

## Helping Children Learn

*"CLIU is a service agency committed to Helping Children Learn."*

The Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, marital status, sex or non-relevant handicap in activities, programs or employment practices. For information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures, contact Ms. Deborah Popson, Section 504 Coordinator, or Mrs. Kim Talipan, Title IX and ADA Coordinator, at the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit, 4210 Independence Drive, Schnecksville PA 18078-2580, 800-223-4821.



# Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21

4210 Independence Drive  
Schnecksville, PA 18078-2580

**Elaine E. Eib, Ed.D.**  
Executive Director

**Kimberly A. Talipan**  
Assistant to the Executive Director

610-769-4111  
800-223-4821  
Fax 610-769-1290  
www.cliu.org

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## Annual Notification of Rights under FERPA for Elementary and Secondary Schools

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and Pennsylvania law affords parents/guardians and students eighteen (18) years of age and older ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

(1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within forty five (45) days of the LEA's (Local Education Agency) receipt of a written request for access.

Parents or eligible students making such requests should submit to the appropriate LEA official a written request that identifies the record(s) s/he wishes to inspect. The LEA official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If, upon inspection, a parent or eligible student requests copies of such records, a fee may be charged.

(2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.

Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the LEA to amend a record should write the appropriate LEA official, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the LEA decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the LEA will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

(3) The right to consent to disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA and State law authorizes disclosure without consent.

Disclosure of personally identifiable information can be made without consent to the following:

a. School officials, including teachers, with a legitimate need to review an educational record in order to fulfill their professional responsibilities. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an educational record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. The LEA maintains a list of these school officials.

b. Officials of another school or school system in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer.

(4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the LEA to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-8520

(5) The right to refuse to permit the designation of any or all of the categories of directory information.

The LEA is permitted by law to disclose directory information without written consent of the parent or eligible student. The parent or eligible student has the right to refuse to permit the designation of any or all of the categories of directory information if a written refusal is forwarded to the LEA by the start of the current school term.

Directory information which may be released may include the student's name, address, phone contact, date and place of birth; major field of study; participation in officially recognized activities and sports; weight and height of members of athletic teams; dates of attendance; degrees and awards received; the most recent and previous education agency or institution attended by the student; and other similar information.

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