Dear Parents /Guardians, Public: 2026-2027

According to state and federal special education regulations, annual public notice to parents of children who reside within a school district, charter school area, or all PA charter schools. School districts, intermediate units, and charter schools are required to conduct child-find activities for children who may be eligible for services via Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For additional information related to Section 504/Chapter 15 services, the parent/ guardian may refer to the PA School Code or Federal Education Websites ( IDEA) to Section 504, Chapter 15, and the Basic Education Circular entitled Implementation of Chapter 15. Also, school districts, but NOT Charter Schools, are required to conduct child-find activities for children who may be eligible for gifted services via 22 PA Code Chapter 16. For additional information regarding gifted services, the parent may refer to 22 PA Code Chapter 16. If a student is both gifted and eligible for Special Education, the procedure in IDEA and Chapter 14 shall take precedence.

This notice shall inform parents, guardians, or members of the public throughout the school district, TCCS, charter school, area of the child identification activities, and the procedures followed to ensure the confidentiality of information about students with disabilities or eligible young children. In addition to this public notice, each school district, intermediate unit, and charter school shall publish written information in the handbook and on their website. Children ages 3-21 can be eligible for special education programs and services.

If a parent or professional provider of services such as a physician, nurse, psychologist, or social worker believes that a child may be eligible for special education or is a child with a disability they have a legal duty to refer the child, including homeless child(ren), to the school district or charter school where the child attends or the Director of Special Education at TCCS or the NW Tri-County Intermediate Unit #5 in Edinboro, PA. Children aged 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. One with a possible 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 exists: (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 percent 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 may contact the Early Intervention Department at the Intermediate Unit. IU#5, Edinboro, PA.

**Evaluation Process**

Each school district, intermediate unit, and charter schools ( TCCS) have a procedure in place by which parents can request an evaluation. For information about procedures applicable to your child in grades K-12 at TCCS, contact the school at (814)484-3550, request an evaluation in writing, or view the TCCS webpages. Parents of preschool-age

children, ages three through five, may request an evaluation in writing by addressing a letter to the Early Intervention Supervisor, NW Tri-County Intermediate Unit #5, 252 Waterford St., Edinboro, PA 16412 or by calling 1-800-677-8461.

**Consent**

School entities cannot proceed with an evaluation or reevaluation, or with the initial provision of special education and related services, without the written consent of the parents. For additional information related to consent, please refer to the Procedural Safeguards Notice which can be found at the PaTTAN website at www.pattan.net. Once written parental consent is obtained, the school district, intermediate unit, or charter schools will proceed with the evaluation process. If the parent disagrees with the evaluation, the parent can request an independent education evaluation at public expense.

**Program Development**

Once the evaluation process is completed, a team of qualified professionals and the parents determine whether the child is eligible. If the child is eligible, the individualized education program (IEP) team meets, develops the program, and determines the educational placement. Once the IEP team develops the program and determines the educational placement, school district staff, intermediate unit staff, or TCCS -charter school staff- will issue a notice of recommended educational placement/prior written notice. Your written consent is required before initial services can be provided. The parent has the right to revoke consent after initial placement.

**Confidentiality of Information**

School districts, intermediate units, and charter schools maintain records concerning all children enrolled in the school, including students with disabilities. All records are maintained in the strictest confidentiality. Your consent, or consent of an eligible child who has reached the age of majority under State law, must be obtained before personally identifiable information is released, except as permitted under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The age of majority in Pennsylvania is 21. Each participating agency must protect the confidentiality of personally identifiable information at the collection, storage, disclosure, and destruction stages. One official at each participating agency must assume responsibility for ensuring the confidentiality of any personally identifiable information. Each participating agency must maintain, for public inspection, a current listing of the names and positions of those employees within the agency who have access to personally identifiable information. For additional information related to student records, the parent can refer to the FERPA at the following URL:

https://www.pa.gov/agencies/health/programs/school-health/confidentiality

This notice is only a summary of the special education services, evaluation and screening activities, and rights and protections for children with disabilities, children thought to be disabled, and their parents. For more information or to request evaluation or screening of a preschool or school-aged child, public or private, contact the school or district where your child attends. Contact Tidioute Community Charter School Special Education Department at:

Tidioute Community Charter School Special Education Department

241 Main St

Tidioute PA 16351

(814) 484-3550 ext 117

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