Annual Public Notice of Special Education Services and Programs 2021-2022 Notice to Parents According to state and federal special education regulations, Annual Public Notice to parents of children who reside within a school district is required regarding Child Find responsibilities. 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 may refer to Section 504, Chapter 15, and the Basic Education Circular entitled ((Implementation of Chapter 15.” Also, school districts 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 procedures in IDEA and Chapter 14 shall take precedence. This Notice shall inform parents throughout the School District, Intermediate Unit, and Charter School of the child identification activities and of the procedures followed to ensure confidentiality of information pertaining to 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 the website. Children of ages three through twenty-one can be eligible for special education programs and services. If parents believe that the child may be eligible for special education, the parent should contact the appropriate staff members identified at the end of this public notice. Children age 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. 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 25o/o of the child’s chronological age in one or more developmental areas; (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, parents may contact Appalachia Intermediate Unit 8. Evaluation Process Each School District, Intermediate Unit, and Charter School has a procedure in place by which parents can request an evaluation. For information about procedures applicable to your child, contact the school which your child attends. Telephone numbers and addresses can be found at the end of this Notice. Parents of preschool-age children, age three through five, and who do not reside in Altoona School District or Tyrone Area School District may request an evaluation in writing by addressing a letter to the Appalachia Intermediate Unit staff. Residents of Altoona School District should address their requests directly to Altoona School District. Likewise, residents of Tyrone Area School District should address their requests directly to Tyrone Area School District. Consent School entities cannot proceed with an evaluation 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 PaTT AN website, at www.Pattan.net . After written parental consent is obtained, the district will proceed with the evaluation process. If the parent disagrees with the evaluation, the parent can then request an independent education evaluation at public expense. Program Development Once the evaluation process is completed, a team of qualified professionals and 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. School district staff, intermediate unit staff, or charter school staff will issue a Notice of Recommended Education Placement (NOREP)jprior written notice. Parental written consent is required before initial services can be provided. Parents have the right to revoke consent after initial placement Confidentiality of Information The 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. Parental 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 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, parents may refer to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Retention/Destruction of Student Records- Special Education In accordance with state and federal regulations implementing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), this notice is hereby given that in accordance with 24CFR 300.573, the School Districts, Intermediate Unit and Charter Schools listed below may destroy the special education records of students who exited from any special education program. Special education records, which have been collected by the School Districts, Intermediate Unit and Charter Schools listed below related to the identification, evaluation, educational placement, or the provision of the Special Education in the district, IU or charter school must be maintained under state and federal law for a period of seven (7) years after Special Education services have ended for the student Special education services end when the student no longer is eligible for services, graduates, completes his or her educational program at age 21, or moves from the School District, Intermediate Unit, or Charter School After seven (7) years, the records are no longer useful to the School District, Intermediate Unit or Charter School and will be destroyed in accordance with state and federal law unless the parent/ guardian or eligible (adult) student contacts the responsible district that the patent/guardian or eligible (adult) student wishes to maintain the information as a personal record. These records may be useful to the parent/guardian or former student when applying for post-secondary education/training, benefits or social services. Records including student’s name, address, grades, attendance, dates attended, grade level completed and year completed may be destroyed after seven (7) years have passed from the student’s 21st birthday. If you wish to request records or need additional information you may contact the responsible school entity. Destruction will proceed where parents/guardians or eligible (adult) students have not requested records in accordance with the responsible school district’s, Intermediate Unit’s or Charter School’s Notice of Destruction of Special Education Records. Retention/Destruction of Student Records- PA State Assessments In accordance with 34 CFR § 300.624, please be advised of the following retention/destruction schedule for the Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment (PASA), Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA), and Keystone Exam related materials: - PSSA, Keystone Exam, and PASA test booklets will be destroyed one year after student reports are delivered to the administration associated with the test booklets. - PSSA and Keystone Exam answer booklets and PASA test materials will be destroyed three years after completion of the assessment. This notice is only a summary of the Special Education services, evaluation and screening activities, and rights and protections pertaining to children with disabilities, children thought to be disabled, and their parents. For information or to request evaluation or screening of a public or private school child, contact the responsible school entity listed below. For preschool age children information, screenings, and evaluations requested may be obtained by contacting the Intermediate Unit or Altoona School District for residents of Altoona or Tyrone Area School District for residents of Tyrone area. The addresses of these schools are as follows: SPECIAL EDUCATION CONTACTS Appalachia Intermediate Unit 8 Altoona Area School District Bedford Area School District Dr. Amy Woomer, Contact Person Michele Sanders, Contact Person Dr. Paul Ruhlman, Contact Person 4500 Sixth Avenue 1415 Sixth Avenue 330 East John Street Altoona, PA 16602 Altoona, PA 16602 Bedford, PA 15522 1-800-228-7900 814-946-8252 Ext 6100 814-623-4260, ext. 1510 Bellwood-Antis School District Berlin-Brothersvalley School District Blacklick Valley School District Carol A. Beard, Contact Person Maria Murphy, Contact Person Heather Rhine, Contact Person 400 Martin Street 1025 Main Street 555 Birch Street Bellwood, PA 16617 Berlin, PA 15530 Nanty-Glo, PA 15943 814-742-7605 Ext 5153 814-267-4621 814-749-9211, ext. 223 Cambria Heights School District Central Cambria School District Chestnut Ridge School District Robert Diamond, Contact Person Dr. Melissa Shaffer, Contact Person Dr. Amy D. Miller, Contact Person 426 Glendale Lake Road 208 Schoolhouse Road 3281 Valley Road Patton, PA 16668 Ebensburg, PA 15931 Fishertown, PA 15539 814-674-3601 ext. 4007 814-472-4492 ext. 288 814-839-4195, ext. 4441 Claysburg-Kimmel School District Conemaugh Township Area School District Conemaugh Valley School District Brian Helsel, Contact Person Jane Jugan, Contact Person Mandy Livai, Contact Person 531 Bedford Street 1516 Tire Hill Road 1342 William Penn Avenue Claysburg, PA 16625 Johnstown, PA 15905 Johnstown, PA 15909 814-239-5141 ext. 1318 814-479-4080, ext. 3758 814-535-5523 Everett Area School District Ferndale Area School District Forest Hills School District Dr. James Hollis, Contact Person Jessica Maxwell, Contact Person Elissa Boyd, Contact Person 427 East South Street 100 Dartmouth Avenue PO Box 158 Everett, PA 15537 Johnstown, PA 15905 Sidman, PA 15955 814-652-9114, ext. 2109 814-539-6168 814-487-7613, ext. 3605 Greater Johnstown School District Hollidaysburg Area School District Meyersdale Area School District Amie Lumadue, Contact Person Laura Koehle, Contact Person Angela Boutilier, Contact Person 1091 Broad Street 405 Clark Street 309 Industrial Park Road Johnstown, PA 15906 Hollidaysburg, PA 16648 Meyersdale, PA 15552 814-533-5661 814-695-5659 814-634-5123, ext. 304 North Star School District Northern Bedford County School District Northern Cambria School District Suzie St. Clair, Contact Person Lindsay Cherry, Contact Person Robert Truscello, Contact Person 1200 Morris Avenue 152 NBC Drive 601 Joseph Street Boswell, PA 15531 Loysburg, PA 16659 Northern Cambria, PA 15714 814-629-1158 814-766-2221, ext. 4718 814-948-5880, ext. 2664 Penn Cambria School District Portage Area School District Richland School District Carrie Conrad, Contact Person Olivia Kudlawiec, Contact Person Dr. Jennifer Shuman, Contact Person 201 Sixth Street 84 Mountain Avenue 321 Schoolhouse Road Cresson, PA 16630 Portage, PA 15946 Johnstown, PA 15904 814-886-4785 ext. 1004 814-736-9636, ext. 1605 or 1304 814-266-6082 Rockwood Area School District Salisbury-Elk Lick School District Shade-Central City School District Mary Gosnell, Contact Person Kala Loya, Contact Person Amy Pierce, Contact Person 437 Somerset Avenue PO Box 68 235 McGregor Avenue Rockwood, PA 15557 Salisbury, PA 15558 Cairnbrook, PA 15924 814-926-4688 ext. 1116 814-662-2733 814-754-5021 Shanksville-Stonycreek School District Somerset Area School District Spring Cove School District Reno Barkman, Contact Person Erick Fish, Contact Person Harry Gregg, Contact Person PO Box 128 645 South Columbia Avenue, Suite 130 1100 East Main Street Shanksville, PA 15560 Somerset, PA 15501 Roaring Spring, PA 16673 814-267-4649, ext. 252 814-444-3225 814-224-3006 Turkeyfoot Valley School District Tussey Mountain School District Tyrone Area School District Nicole Dice, Contact Person Denelle Diehl, Contact Person Kourtney Klock, Contact Person 172 Turkeyfoot Road 199 Front Street 701 Clay Avenue Confluence, PA 15424 Saxton, PA 16678 Tyrone PA 16686 814-395-3621 ext.409 814-635-3670 814-684-4240, ext. 4136 Westmont Hilltop School District Williamsburg Community School District Windber Area School District Dr. Nicole Cramer, Contact Person Lisa Murgas, Contact Person Richard Lucas, Contact Person 222 Fair Oaks Drive 515 West Third Street 2301 Graham Avenue Johnstown, PA 15905 Williamsburg, PA 16693 Windber, PA 15963 814-255-8748 814-832-2125 814-467-4567 ext 810 Admiral Peary Area Vocational-Technical School Bedford County Technical Center Greater Altoona Career & Technology Center Kathleen Conrad, Contact Person Michael O’Dellick, Contact Person Mike Selvenis, Contact Person 948 Ben Franklin Highway 195 Pennknoll Road 1500 Fourth Avenue Ebensburg, PA 15931 Everett, PA 15537 Altoona, PA 16602 814-472-6490, ext. 305 814-623-2760, ext. 4800 814-946-8457 Greater Johnstown Career & Technology Center Somerset County Technology Center Central Pennsylvania Digital Learning John Augustine, III, Contact Person Matthew Danel, Contact Person Kim Salyards, Contact Person 445 Schoolhouse Road 281 Technology Drive Bonnie Waltz, Contact Person Johnstown, PA 15904 Somerset, PA 15501 580 Foot of Ten Road 814-266-6073, ext. 400 814-443-3651, ext. 6128 Duncansville, PA 166355 814-682-5258, ext. 105 Hope for Hyndman Charter School Bedford County Prison Blair County Prison Stephanie Holliday, Contact Person Brad Theys, Contact Person Brad Theys, Contact Person 130 School Drive 425 Imlertown Road 419 Market Square Alley Hyndman, PA 15545 Bedford, PA 15522 Hollidaysburg, PA 16648 814-842-3918, ext. 305 814-472-7690 814-472-7690 Cambria County Prison Somerset County Prison Brad Theys, Contact Person Brad Theys, Contact Person 425 Manor Drive 127 East Fairview Street Ebensburg, PA 15931 Somerset, PA 15501 814-472-7690 814-472-7690 The Intermediate Unit, School Entity, or Charter School will not discriminate in employment, educational programs, or activities based on race, color, national origin, age, sex, handicap, creed, marital status, or because a person is a disabled veteran or a veteran of the Vietnam era. No preschool, elementary, or secondary school pupil enrolled in a School District, Intermediate Unit, or Charter School program shall be denied equal opportunity to participate in age and program appropriate instruction or activities due to race, color, handicap, creed, national origin, marital status, or financial hardship. August 18, 2021