

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
Lehigh 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
Lehigh Area, 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))



Helping Children Learn

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