

## **Special Education Public Awareness & Screening Information**

The Blackhawk School District offers a full continuum of special education programs and services to students eligible for such services. Special Education programs and services are available for students with disabilities between the ages of three (3) and twenty-one (21). Services for eligible children ages three (3) to school entry age may be requested by contacting the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit at 724-774-7800. Services for eligible and gifted students of school entry age through twenty-one (21) years of age may be requested by contacting your child's building principal. All eligible students are entitled to a free, appropriate public education.

Special Education programs at the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit and/or the Blackhawk School District include:

Developmental Delays (Preschool only)	Blind or Visually Impaired Support
Autistic Support	Emotional Support
Life Skills	Multiple Disabled Support
Learning Support	Speech and Language Support
Deaf or Hearing Impaired Support	Neurologically Impaired Support
Physical Support	Other Health Impaired Support
Occupational Therapy Services	Physical Therapy Services

### **Child Find and Screening**

The Blackhawk School District conducts a system of initial screening activities on an ongoing basis in all buildings to locate, identify, and evaluate students who may be eligible for special education services. Child Find also includes children attending private schools and those highly mobile.

Parents or guardians may request that the district initiate the screening/evaluation process at any time to determine their child's eligibility and need for special education programs and services. Requests for screening or evaluation can be made at any time in writing. For further information, parents or guardians may contact the Special Education Supervisor at 724-843-1005, or the building principal or school psychologist.

**Confidentiality**

All information collected as part of an individual student referral or evaluation is treated in a confidential manner. A written policy (#216, Management of Student Records) regarding the confidentiality of student records is available for review by contacting the Special Education Supervisor at 724-843-1005.

**Chapter 15/Other Protected Handicapped Students**

In compliance with state and federal law, Blackhawk School District will provide to each protected handicapped student without discrimination or cost to the student or family, those related aids, services or accommodations that are needed to provide equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits of the school program and extracurricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate to the students' abilities. In order to qualify as a protected handicapped student, the child must be of school age with a physical or mental disability that substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to any aspect of the school program.

These services and protections for "protected handicapped students" are distinct from those applicable to all gifted or eligible students enrolled (or seeking enrollment) in special education programs.

For further information on the evaluation procedures and provision of services to protected handicapped students, contact your building principal or the Special Education Office at 724-843-1005.

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Does this notice provide you with enough information about the Special Education programs and services offered at the Blackhawk School District?

\_\_\_\_\_ YES                      \_\_\_\_\_ NO

If NO, what additional information would you like to see placed on this form?

Please complete the above form and send or email to:

Special Education Supervisor  
Blackhawk Intermediate School  
635 Shenango Road  
Beaver Falls, PA 15010  
[mulp@bsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:mulp@bsd.k12.pa.us)

## **Gifted Support**

Chapter 16 of the Pennsylvania School Code recognizes that gifted students need specially designed instruction, based on the unique needs of each student.

*Gifted education shall enable them (gifted students) to participate in acceleration or enrichment, or both, as appropriate, and to receive services according to their intellectual and academic abilities and needs (16.2)*

If it is determined that a student may possibly be mentally gifted, the student's records will be reviewed, and the respective school guidance counselors will gather information from the student's parents and teachers. If the data supports a need, parents will be asked to give written permission for further evaluation. This process is called Gifted Multidisciplinary Evaluation (GME). The parents are members of the Gifted Multidisciplinary Team (GMT).

## **Family Education Rights & Privacy Act**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records.

These rights are:

- The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 30 days of the day the school receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
- The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the school to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should complete the form available from the school principal (or appropriate official) to clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school 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.
- The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without

consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

- The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school 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 20202-4605

- The right to refuse to permit the designation of any of or all of the categories of directory information. The *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA), a federal law, requires that the Blackhawk School District, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's educational records. However, Blackhawk School District may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the District the contrary in accordance with District procedures. Directory information, which is information that generally not considered harmful an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under *the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories - names, addresses, and telephone listings - unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want the student's information disclosed without their prior written consent. If you do not want Blackhawk School District to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the district in writing by September 30<sup>th</sup> of the current school year. Directory information which may be released may include the student's name, 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 students; and other similar information.

The Blackhawk School District will make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or eligible student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.

A more detailed explanation of your rights, the procedures to follow if you want to take advantage of them, and the limitations on the release of records is presented in the School District's Policy for the Management of Student Records (216).

## **Parental Notification Requirements:**

### **No Child Left Behind (NCLB)**

#### **Access to Student Recruiting Information**

The Blackhawk School District must provide to military recruiters or institutions of higher education, upon request, access to secondary school students (i.e., juniors and seniors) and directory information on those students. The state military affairs law requires the release of directory information consisting of a list of secondary male and female students by name, home address, and telephone number. Both the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* and the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002* reflect these requirements. The list will be compiled by the first day of the academic year in which the senior students will graduate unless parents have advised Blackhawk School District that they do not want the student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

#### **The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)**

The *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* contains a major amendment to PPRA that gives parents more rights with regard to the surveying of minor students, the collection of information from students for marketing purposes, and certain non-emergency medical examinations. These include the right to:

- Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas ("protected information survey") if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education
  1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
  2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
  3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
  4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
  5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;

6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
  7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
  8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.
- Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of
    1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
    2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a students, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
    3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.
  - Inspect, upon request and before administration or use
    1. Protected information surveys of students;
    2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
    3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

### **English as a Second Language Service (ESL)**

In accordance with federal law and state regulations, the Blackhawk School District must identify all students who have "*limited English proficiency*" (LEP). These students typically have a primary language other than English that is used in their homes. Students identified with a limited English proficiency are eligible for ESL instructional services to help them attain a proficient skill level in their use of the written and spoken English language.

All students must have a Home Language Survey completed by their parents prior to admission into the school district. This survey allows the Blackhawk School District to identify possible LEP students. An education specialist from the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit will more formally screen any student identified as possibly having a limited English proficiency. If ESL instruction is needed, it will begin within 30 days of a student's enrollment in the district and a qualified teacher will facilitate the ESL core curriculum to each identified student.

Parents or guardians should contact the district if they feel that their child may have a limited English proficiency and needs to be screened for ESL instructional services. These requests can be directed to the student's building principal the English as a Second Language Coordinator/Special Education Supervisor at 724-843-1005.

### **Instructional Material**

The Blackhawk School District must provide parents an opportunity to review instructional materials, including teachers' manuals, audiovisuals, or other supplemental instructional material used in instructional programs. To review instructional materials, parents should contact the student's building principal. For additional information regarding the review of instructional materials, refer to Policy #105.1 (Curriculum Review by Parents and Students).

### **Assessments/Report Cards**

Students are assessed each year in grades K - 11. Assessments used are defined by the district assessment plan available at each building site. The assessment plan is aligned with district standards and the state assessments. Assessments can be inspected, upon request, prior to administration by contacting the building principals. District personnel are available to answer any questions posed by parents. Individual results are forwarded to parents as they become available to the district. Parents and members of the community can access district and individual school information on the district web site at <http://www.bsd.k12.pa.us>. The Pennsylvania School Report Card web site can be accessed at [www.paprofiles.org](http://www.paprofiles.org).

## **Other Required Notices**

### **Integrated Pest Management**

The Blackhawk School District adopted an Integrated Pest Management policy in October, 2002. The purpose of the policy is to utilize integrated pest management procedures to manage structural and landscape pests and the toxic chemicals used for their control in order to alleviate pest problems with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment. A component of the plan specifically pertains to schedule pesticide applications on school grounds and in school buildings. When scheduled applications are to occur, the District shall provide required notice to all parents and guardians of students who have requested notification of application. The District shall notify by telephone any parent and guardian who has requested such notification. If you wish to be placed on the school's notifications registry, please notify in writing your child's building principal.

### **Asbestos Notification**

In accordance with the Public Law 99-519, school districts are required to provide notification of an Asbestos Management Plan. This plan for the Blackhawk School District is available for review, upon request, at the District Office.

### **Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)**

Free or low-cost health insurance may be available to your family through the Children's Health Insurance Program of Pennsylvania (CHIP). CHIP provides insurance to families whose income is above Medical Assistance limits, but cannot afford to purchase insurance privately. Routine checkups, immunizations, hospitalization, dental exams, eye exams and eyeglasses, prescriptions, hearing services, and other health services are covered under CHIP. Call the Healthy Kids Network at 1-800-986-KIDS or access the online site at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us), to find out if your family qualifies for CHIP.

### **Notice of Nondiscrimination**

The Blackhawk School District will not discriminate in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices, based on race, color, national origin, sex, or any other legally protected classification. This policy is in accordance with state and federal laws, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Employees and participants who have an inquiry or complaint of harassment or discrimination or who need information about accommodations for handicapped persons should contact the Business Manager at 724-846-6600. Ext. 241. A more detailed explanation of this notice is presented in the School District's Policy for Nondiscrimination - Schools and Classroom Practices (103) and Nondiscrimination - School and Employment (104). These policies are available for review, upon request, at the District Office.