

## **Williams Valley School District**

### **Annual Public Notice of Special Education Services and Programs**

#### **INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2004**

The Williams Valley School District is required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 ("IDEA") to provide a free, appropriate, public education ("FAPE") to "children with disabilities." Pursuant to the IDEA, students are considered to be children with disabilities if they need special education and related services and have one or more of the following physical or mental disabilities:

- Autism • Orthopedic Impairment • Deaf-Blindness • Other Health Impairment • Emotional Disturbance • Specific Learning Disability • Hearing Impairment including Deafness • Speech or Language Impairment • Mental Retardation • Traumatic Brain Injury • Multiple Disabilities • Visual Impairment including Blindness

The IDEA further requires the provision of FAPE to children with disabilities between the age of three and the school district's age of beginners known as "eligible young children." The Schuylkill County Intermediate Unit provides early intervention services and programs to eligible young children located within the Williams Valley School District. All children learn and grow at different rates. Children who are developing more slowly than other children their age may need Early Intervention Services.

Delays in the following developmental milestones can alert parents to the potential need for Early Intervention Services:

- Physical Development (ability to move, see, and hear)
- Language Development (ability to talk or express needs)
- Social and Emotional Development (ability to relate to others)
- Self-Help Development (ability to eat, dress, and take care of themselves)
- Cognitive Development (ability to think and learn)

In order to obtain additional information please contact the Early Intervention Administrator listed at the conclusion of this notice.

Services for infants and toddlers from birth to age 2 are the responsibility of the Department of public Welfare. In order to obtain additional information please contact Services Access and Management Inc. at (570) 621-2700.

#### **SERVICES FOR PROTECTED HANDICAPPED STUDENTS**

The Williams Valley School District must provide services to and may not discriminate against "protected handicapped students" in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. A protected handicapped student is a student who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities, has a record of such impairment or is regarded as having such impairment. Protected handicapped students may qualify for special services to ensure equal opportunity to participate in the school program and extracurricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate for the individual student.

#### **GIFTED EDUCATION**

In Pennsylvania, school age students qualify to receive specially designed instruction when they have been identified as "mentally gifted." A student is mentally gifted when he or she has outstanding intellectual and creative ability that requires specially designed programs or support services not ordinarily provided in the regular education program. The Williams Valley School District will determine whether a student is mentally gifted based upon multiple criteria, including I.Q. score. The determination of gifted ability will not be based on I.Q. score alone.

