

The Wattsburg Area School District hereby notifies parents and guardians of children with disabilities age 3-21 of the availability of Special Education Services, under the requirements of Chapter 14 of the School Code, to meet these children's unique educational needs.

Every school has a screening and evaluation process to identify students who may require Special Education Services. If parents or guardians think their child might need Special Education Services or that the child may have a developmental delay, they can refer their child by contacting the principal of the school which the child attends, the school district Central Administration Office, or the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit. Screenings and evaluations occur throughout the year and also during registration for Kindergarten.

Available programs and services, at no costs to parents, include:

Early Intervention -	For children ages 3-5 with **developmental delays and disabilities.
Learning Support -	For students with Learning Disabilities or mild Mental Retardation.
Emotional Support -	For students with emotional problems and/or mental health disorders.
Sensory Support -	For students who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Blind, or Visually Impaired.
Physical Support -	For students with Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy and other physical disabilities.
Autistic Support -	For students with Autism or Pervasive Developmental Disorder.
Multiple Disabilities Support -	For students with two or more disabilities, one of which is Mental Retardation.
Life Skills Support -	For students with moderate Mental Retardation who require instruction in daily living skills.
Speech and Language Support -	For students with speech or language disorders.

\*\* IDEA 2004 states that early intervention services must be provided to infants and toddlers with developmental delays or established risk conditions the following is information related to Developmental Delay and potential risk areas:

- Developmental delays are significant delays or atypical patterns of development that make children eligible for early intervention services. The following are potential risk areas:
    - Established risk conditions include a diagnosed physical or medical condition that almost always result in developmental delay or disability. Examples of this category are, Down syndrome, Fragile-X syndrome, fetal alcohol syndrome, other conditions associated with mental retardation, brain or spinal cord damage, and sensory impairments.
    - Biological risk conditions include pediatric histories or current biological conditions that result in a greater-than usual probability of developmental delay or disability. Examples of this category are: low birth weight and significant premature birth.
    - Environmental risk conditions include factors such as extreme poverty, parental substance abuse, homeless, abuse or neglect, and parental intellectual impairment which are associated with higher than normal probability with of developmental delay.
- (Heward, 2006, pgs.563-564)

Parents are also advised that in Pennsylvania, children with disabilities, who do not require special education, are protected by the regulations of Chapter 15 of the School Code. Parents who feel their child may be a child with a "protected handicapped" should contact the principal of the school their child attends for more information.

Parents are further advised that in Pennsylvania, children who are mentally gifted are protected by the regulations of Chapter 16 of the School Code. Parents who feel their child may be gifted should contact the principal of the school their child attends for more information.

If you have any questions or for learning more about your child's rights for a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) call or write:

Special Education Supervisor  
Wattsburg Area School District  
10770 Wattsburg Road,  
Erie, PA 16509-6499  
Phone: (814) 824-4126

Parents may also contact:

Special Education Department  
Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit  
252 Waterford Street  
Edinboro, PA 16412  
Phone: (814) 734-5610  
Toll Free: 1-800-677-5610

Notice is also given regarding the Confidentiality requirements school districts and Intermediate Units must follow in the evaluation, identification, and programming of children who may require Chapter 14, Chapter 15, or Chapter 16 services. Records generated by this process, as well as records sought from non-school agencies, are confidential and protected by both Federal and State Legislation. Information to and from outside sources cannot be requested or released without the parent's written consent. All records are kept under lock and are mechanically destroyed when they no longer have educational relevance. WASD does not disclose personally identifiable information.

Information about confidentiality will be provided to parents or guardians at the time of the evaluation referral.