

Is your child having difficulty in school?

Has your child been identified as needing special education services?

If you believe your child may have a disability and may be in need of special education services, an evaluation process to assess your child's needs is available to you at no cost through the local educational agency (LEA) in which you live or from the intermediate unit (IU) in which your private school is located. Special education often involves adapting materials and modifying instruction to better meet your child's specific learning needs.

If you request these services, your child will receive an evaluation from a team of experts trained in assessing children. This team will determine if your child has a disability and if so, is in need of special education. You are an important member of your child's evaluation team.

Before the LEA or the IU proceeds with an evaluation, it will notify you in writing of the specific types of tests and procedures it plans to use, and of your rights throughout this process. The evaluation cannot be scheduled until you sign the written notice, indicating that you consent to the proposed testing and assessments, and return the notice to the LEA or IU.

If, after an evaluation, your child is found to have a disability and to need special education, the public school will develop, with your participation, an *Individualized Education Program* (IEP). An IEP is a written document that specifically describes the



services your child needs. The services in the IEP will be offered to your child in a public school. If you wish to accept the offer, you will have to enroll your child in the public school. If you choose not to accept the program specified in the IEP, your child's private school still may be eligible for certain services.

If your child has already been evaluated and offered services in an IEP, and you chose not to accept the services, communicate this to your child's principal. Again, your child's private school may still be eligible for certain services.

Certain services are available to students identified as eligible for special education who are unilaterally placed by their parents in private schools through a federal requirement called *Equitable Participation (EP) Services*. In Pennsylvania, the IU is the agency responsible for the implementation of the federal requirement for EP Services. EP Services require that each IU, following a federal funding calculation, must expend a designated amount of federal Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funds on services and/or resources for students identified as eligible for special education services whose parents have unilaterally chosen to place their child in a private school. The IU is not required to offer the same services that would be offered as a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) in the public school. The IU is mandated to offer those services determined by their annual consultation with their private school agencies and parents. Examples of EP Services include direct support to students, consultation with staff, and professional development for teachers. In circumstances where the allocation of funds for EP Services under the federal calculation is exhausted, the IU would cease to provide any EP Services until the next fiscal year. The IU must participate annually in the notification, consultation, and collaboration with their private school agencies in their local geographic area as required under IDEA 2004 regulations §§300.130-300.144.

If you are interested in finding out more about the special education process, please speak with your child's principal. For additional information, feel free to contact the LEA in which you live, or the IU in which your child's school is located, as listed on the back of this brochure.

CCIU 24 SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Avon Grove School District
Director of Pupil Services
375 South Jennersville Road
West Grove, PA 19390
610-869-2441

Coatesville Area School District
Director of Special Education
3030 C.G. Zinn Road
Thorndale, PA 19372
610-466-2400

Downingtown Area School District
Director of Pupil Services
540 Trestle Place
Downingtown, PA 19335
610-269-8460

Great Valley School District
Director of Student Services
47 Church Road
Malvern, PA 19355
610-889-2125

Kennett Consolidated School District
Director of Special Education
300 East South Street
Kennett Square, PA 19348
610-444-6600

Octorara Area School District
Director of Special Education
228 Highland Road, Suite 1
Atglen, PA 19310
610-593-8238

Owen J. Roberts School District
Director of Pupil Services
901 Ridge Road
Pottstown, PA 19465
610-469-5100

Oxford Area School District
Director of Special Education
125 Bell Tower Lane
Oxford, PA 19363
610-932-6600

Phoenixville Area School District
Director of Specialized Programs and Services
386 City Line Avenue
Phoenixville, PA 19460
484-927-5000

Tredyffrin/Easttown School District
Director of Individualized Student Services
940 W. Valley Road, Suite 1700
Wayne, PA 19087
610-240-1900

Unionville-Chadds Ford School District
Director of Pupil Services
740 Unionville Road
Kennett Square, PA 19348
610-347-0970

West Chester Area School District
Director of Pupil Services
782 Springdale Drive
Exton, PA 19341
484-266-1000

Chester County IU 24
Supervisor of Nonpublic School Services
455 Boot Road
Downingtown, PA 19335
484-237-5000

Evaluation for Children Who Are Parentally Placed in Private School

Information About
Special Education Services

PATTAN
Pennsylvania Training and
Technical Assistance Network