

# **Public Notice (ChildFind)**

## **WEATHERLY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL PUBLIC NOTICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND GIFTED EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

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

The Weatherly Area School District is required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of the 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 Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit provides early intervention services and programs to eligible young children located within the Weatherly Area School District. Eligible young children are afforded the same rights as school age children including screening, evaluation, and an appropriate program and services.

### **II. SERVICES FOR PROTECTED HANDICAPPED STUDENTS**

The Weatherly Area 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 that 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.

### **III. 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 Weatherly Area School District will determine whether a student is mentally gifted based upon multiple criteria, including I.Q. score, which indicates gifted ability. The determination of gifted ability will not be based on I.Q. score alone.

### **IV. SCREENING AND EVALUATION**

The Weatherly Area School District uses procedures to help identify children who may qualify for services, including parent/teacher referrals, review of student records and screening for hearing, vision and speech and language problems. If you believe that your child may be eligible for special education and related services or gifted education, screening and evaluation services designed to assess the needs of your child and his/her eligibility are available to you at no cost. You may request screening and evaluation at any time, whether or not your child is enrolled in the district's public school program. Requests for screening and evaluation may be made in writing to the district address or your child's building principal.

