

## **AVON GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT PROVIDES SCREENING AND EVALUATION FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION**

The Avon Grove School District reminds residents that they can make an appointment with the district to have their child screened to determine if the child may be in need of a special education program. Avon Grove School District's ongoing screening service is available to all students in the district, including homeschooled children and students who attend private schools. For more information, or to schedule an appointment for your child, contact Peg O'Grady, Ph.D., Supervisor of Pupil Services, at 484-667-4441. The staff at Avon Grove School District and parent will find a mutually agreeable time and location for the screening activities.

All school districts in Pennsylvania are required by state law to implement procedures to identify, locate and evaluate all children who may need special education programs. The procedures and activities, known as Child Find, are performed to identify children who are suspected as having a disability that would interfere with their learning unless special education programs are made available. The purpose of identification is to ensure that a free and appropriate education is provided to students who are identified as having a disability.

When the screening process identifies a child suspected of having a disability, the district must obtain parental permission before the child can be evaluated. If parental permission is received, the child will be evaluated to identify the disability and to determine the child's need for special education and services. Following is a list of disabilities that may be identified: specific learning disability, speech/language impairment, emotional disturbance, other health impairment, mental retardation, traumatic brain injury, autism, multiple disabilities, hearing impairment, visual impairment, deaf-blindness.

Students found to be eligible for special education would be offered a continuum of services provided within the regular classroom as well as in pullout programs. Both academic and emotional/social supports are available.

The district will gather information regarding a child's physical, mental, emotional and health functioning through testing and assessment, observation of the child, as well as through any records made available to the school district through physicians and other providers of services such as day care agencies.

A written record, or education record, is developed based upon the results of the evaluation. School districts are required by law to protect the confidentiality of education records, and parents have the right to inspect and review any educational records related to their child that are collected, maintained or used by the school district.

For more information, call the Avon Grove School District Pupil Services Office at 484-667-4441.

