

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 home-schooled 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, and 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.

Notice to Parents/Guardians about Disclosure of Student "Directory Information"

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a federal law, requires that Avon Grove School District, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, Avon Grove School District may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the Avon Grove School District to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications.

Examples include:

- Newsletters
- A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production
- The annual yearbook
- Honor roll or other recognition lists
- Graduation programs
- Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks.

Avon Grove School District has designated the following information as directory information:

- Student's name
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Address
- Telephone listing
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Electronic mail address
- Photograph
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- Date and place of birth
- Major field of study
- Dates of attendance
- Grade level
- The most recent educational agency or institution attended

If you do not want Avon Grove School District to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the District in writing by September 11, 2009.

Send written notification to: Lisa McVey, Communications Liaison, Avon Grove School District, 375 S. Jennersville Road, West Grove, PA 19390.

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