MIDWESTERN INTERMEDIATE UNIT IV

ANNUAL PUBLIC NOTICE OF EARLY INTERVENTION AND SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AND PROGRAMS (2026–2027 SCHOOL YEAR)

Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV (MIU IV) provides this Annual Public Notice to inform parents, guardians, families, educators, and members of the public of its responsibilities regarding Early Intervention, Child Find, special education services and programs, evaluation, identification, and confidentiality of information. MIU IV serves children and students in Butler, Lawrence, and Mercer Counties through Early Intervention and special education services and programs.

This notice is provided in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), federal regulations, and Pennsylvania regulations, including 22 Pa. Code Chapter 14.

MIU IV maintains public awareness and Child Find activities to locate and identify children who may be eligible for Early Intervention or special education services and programs and to inform families of the manner in which services may be requested.

CHILD FIND

Child Find is the process through which children who are suspected of having a developmental delay or disability are identified, located, and evaluated to determine whether they may be eligible for Early Intervention or special education services and programs. MIU IV participates in Child Find activities for eligible children and students within its areas of responsibility. Parents and other individuals who suspect that a child may have a developmental delay or disability are encouraged to make a referral or contact MIU IV for additional information.

EARLY INTERVENTION

Pennsylvania's Early Intervention system provides services and supports to eligible young children with developmental delays or disabilities and their families. MIU IV provides Preschool Early Intervention services for eligible children in its service area.

Early Intervention services are designed to address the individual developmental and educational needs of eligible young children. MIU IV currently provides Early Intervention programs and services throughout Butler, Lawrence, and Mercer Counties. Early Intervention services are provided at no cost to eligible families.

Preschool Early Intervention is available to children who meet applicable Pennsylvania eligibility requirements.

MIU IV's Early Intervention program may provide services in:

- Early childhood classrooms;
- Preschool programs;
- Childcare settings;
- Community settings;
- Other educational settings; and
- Other appropriate environments based upon the child's individual needs

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EARLY INTERVENTION CHILD FIND

MIU IV participates in Child Find activities designed to identify young children who may be eligible for Early Intervention services.

Child Find activities may include outreach to and coordination with:

- Parents and families;
- Pediatricians and other medical providers;
- Childcare providers;
- Head Start programs;
- Preschool programs;
- Early childhood education programs;
- County agencies;
- Children and Youth Services;
- Community organizations;
- Other Early Intervention providers;
- School districts;
- Charter schools; and
- Other agencies that serve young children.

SPECIAL EDUCATION CHILD FIND

MIU IV provides special education services and programs to eligible students through its programs and services. The responsibilities include identifying children who may have a disability and who may require special education and related services within MIU IV's areas of responsibility.

Children may be referred by:

- Parents or guardians;
- School districts;
- Charter schools;
- Private or nonpublic schools;
- Teachers;
- Physicians;
- Early Intervention personnel;
- Other agencies;
- Community organizations; or
- Other individuals who have reason to suspect that a child may have a disability.

CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

MIU IV recognizes that children experiencing homelessness may be at increased risk of having an unidentified disability because of frequent changes in residence, school, or educational setting. MIU IV participates in Child Find activities for children experiencing homelessness within its areas of responsibility. Referrals may be made by:

- Parents;
- Shelters;
- School districts;
- Community agencies;
- McKinney-Vento personnel;
- Child welfare agencies;
- Teachers; or
- Other individuals or organizations.

EVALUATION

When an evaluation is appropriate, MIU IV follows applicable federal and Pennsylvania requirements. An evaluation is designed to determine whether the child is a child with a disability and whether the child requires special education and related services as a result of that disability. No single assessment or measure will be used as the sole criterion for determining eligibility.

Evaluation information may include:

- Parent input;
- Developmental history;
- Educational records;
- Teacher information;
- Classroom observations;
- Psychological information;
- Speech and language information;
- Occupational or physical therapy information;
- Medical information, when relevant;
- Behavioral information;
- Functional information; and
- Other relevant information.

DISABILITY CATEGORIES

A student may be eligible for special education if the student meets applicable federal and Pennsylvania eligibility requirements. A medical diagnosis does not, by itself, establish eligibility for special education.

The disability categories under IDEA include:

- Autism;
- Deaf-blindness;
- Deafness;
- Emotional disturbance;
- Intellectual disability;
- Multiple disabilities;
- Orthopedic impairment;
- Other health impairment;
- Specific learning disability;
- Speech or language impairment;
- Traumatic brain injury; and
- Visual impairment, including blindness.

SCREENING

MIU IV may conduct or participate in screening activities to identify children who may need further evaluation or services.

Screening may include:

- Developmental screening;
- Educational screening;

- Review of records;
- Observation;
- Parent and teacher input;
- Assessment of academic performance;
- Assessment of functional performance;
- Hearing and vision information;
- Behavioral information; and
- Other appropriate screening activities.

REQUESTING AN EVALUATION

A parent or guardian may request an evaluation when the parent suspects that a child may have a disability and may require special education and related services. Requests may be made to the child's school district. Parents are not required to wait until a child fails a grade, fails a course, or exhausts interventions before requesting an evaluation.

FREE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION

Eligible students with disabilities are entitled to a **Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)** consistent with applicable federal and Pennsylvania requirements. FAPE includes special education and related services provided at the public expense, under public supervision and direction, without charge to parents; and in accordance with an appropriate Individualized Education Program.

INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM

For students determined eligible for special education, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) is developed and implemented in accordance with applicable federal and PA requirements.

An IEP may address:

- Present levels of academic achievement and functional performance;
- Measurable annual goals;
- Special education services;
- Related services;
- Supplementary aids and services;
- Program modifications;
- Supports for school personnel;
- Participation in the general education curriculum;
- State and local assessments;
- Transition services, when applicable; and
- Extended school year services, when applicable.

LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT

To the maximum extent appropriate, students with disabilities are educated with students who are not disabled. MIU IV considers the individual needs of each student when determining educational placement and services. The educational placement of a student with a disability is determined in accordance with applicable federal and Pennsylvania requirements.

RELATED SERVICES

Eligible students may receive related services when those services are necessary for the student to benefit from special education.

Related services may include:

- Speech-language services;
- Occupational therapy;
- Physical therapy;
- Counseling;
- Psychological services;
- Social work;
- Audiological services;
- Nursing or health services;
- Assistive technology;
- Transportation;
- Orientation and mobility services; and
- Other appropriate services.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION

MIU IV protects the confidentiality of personally identifiable information concerning students with disabilities and eligible young children.

Information is maintained and disclosed in accordance with applicable federal and Pennsylvania laws and regulations, including:

- The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA);
- The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA);
- Pennsylvania Chapter 14;
- Applicable Early Intervention confidentiality requirements; and
- Other applicable laws and regulations.

PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS

Parents of children with disabilities have procedural safeguards and rights under federal and Pennsylvania law, and the applicable Procedural Safeguards Notice is provided to parents at the times required by law.

These rights may include:

- Prior written notice;
- Parental consent;
- Evaluation and reevaluation;
- Independent educational evaluation;
- Access to records;
- Participation in educational planning;
- Educational placement protections;
- Mediation;
- State complaints;

- Due process hearings;
- Discipline protections; and
- Other rights provided by federal and Pennsylvania law.

EARLY INTERVENTION PARENT RIGHTS

Parents of children receiving Early Intervention services have procedural safeguards and rights under applicable federal and Pennsylvania Early Intervention requirements. Parents may obtain the appropriate Early Intervention Procedural Safeguards Notice through MIU IV or the appropriate Early Intervention program. Questions concerning Early Intervention parent rights may be directed to MIU IV's Early Intervention program.

ANNUAL PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

MIU IV provides annual public notification concerning Child Find activities and procedures used to ensure the confidentiality of information pertaining to students with disabilities and eligible young children.

This notice is made available through appropriate electronic and other media to provide adequate notification to parents and families within MIU IV's service area and areas in which MIU IV provides applicable services.

This notice may be distributed through:

- The MIU IV website;
- Electronic communications;
- Parent information materials;
- Early Intervention publications;
- Special education publications;
- Community outreach;
- Private and nonpublic school communications;
- Local media; and
- Other appropriate public-awareness methods.

NONDISCRIMINATION

Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV does not discriminate in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran status, or other status protected by applicable law.

Individuals who have questions regarding nondiscrimination, accessibility, accommodations, or complaints may contact:

Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV
453 Maple Street
Grove City, PA 16127
724-458-6700

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

For information about Early Intervention or Special Education services, contact:

MIDWESTERN INTERMEDIATE UNIT IV
453 Maple Street
Grove City, PA 16127
724-458-6700

Attention: ***Director of Special Education***

Additional information about MIU IV programs and services is available at: **www.miu4.org**

Butler Area School District
Aaron Royhab, LEA
Harriger Education Center
110 Campus Lane
Butler, PA 16001
724-214-3121

Commodore Perry School District
James DeSantis, LEA
3002 Perry Highway
Hadley, PA 16130
724-253-3255

Ellwood City Area School District
Jaimie Rennie, LEA
501 Crescent Avenue
Ellwood City, PA 16117
724-752-1591 ext. 3603

Farrell Area School District
Keirnan Grill, LEA
1600 Roemer Blvd.
Farrell, PA 16121
724-509-1216

Greenville Area School District
Tyler Lanciotti, LEA
60 Fredonia Road
Greenville, PA 16125
724-588-2500 ext. 1133

Grove City Area School District
Jennifer Connelly, LEA
511 Highland Avenue
Grove City, PA 16127
724-458-6733 ext. 2140

Hermitage School District
Andrew Kemper, LEA
411 N. Hermitage Road
Hermitage, PA 16148-3316
724-981-8750 ext. 6300

Jamestown Area School District
Gary Kinnear, LEA
204 Shenango Street, PO Box 217
Jamestown, PA 16134
724-932-5557 ext. 1104

Karns City Area School District
Jen Jamison, LEA
1446 Kittanning Pike
Karns City, PA 16041
724-756-0521 ext. 1012

Knoch School District
Vittoria Shea, LEA
328 Knoch Road
Saxonburg, PA 16056
724-352-1700 ext. 5640

Lakeview School District
Julie Lyon, LEA
2482 Mercer Street
Stoneboro, PA 16153
724-376-7911 ext. 6026

Laurel School District
Leslie Gleghorn, LEA
2497 Harlansburg Road
New Castle, PA 16101
724-658-8940 ext. 2940

Mars Area School District
Dr. Travis Mineard, LEA
545 Route 228
Mars, PA 16046
724-625-1518 ext. 1530

Mercer Area School District
Amanda Simpson, LEA
545 West Butler Street
Mercer, PA 16137
724-662-5102 ext. 3015

Mohawk Area School District
Carla Krisuk, LEA
385 Mohawk School Road
New Castle, PA 16102
724-667-7782 ext. 1177

Moniteau School District
Dustin Thompson, LEA
1810 West Sunbury Road
West Sunbury, PA 16061
724-637-2091 ext. 1450

Neshannock Twp. School District
Alicia Measel, LEA
3834 Mitchell Road
New Castle, PA 16105
724-658-4793 ext. 5106

New Castle Area School District
Anthony Ovial, LEA
420 Fern Street
New Castle, PA 16101
724-656-4763

Reynolds School District
Katie Leckenby, LEA
531 Reynolds Road
Greenville, PA 16125
724-646-5500 ext. 5534

Seneca Valley School District
Dr. Cassandra Doggrell, LEA
124 Seneca School Road
Harmony, PA 16037
724-452-6040 ext. 1635

Sharon City School District
Dr. Stacy Payne, LEA
215 Forker Blvd.
Sharon, PA 16146
724-983-4052

Sharpsville Area School District
Dr. Annessa Steele, LEA
1 Blue Devil Way
Sharpsville, PA 16150
724-962-8300 ext. 4110

Shenango Area School District
Jim Janacone, LEA
2501 Old Pittsburgh Road
New Castle, PA 16101
724-658-7287 ext. 6

Slippery Rock Area School District
Jessica Parker, LEA
201 Kiester Road
Slippery Rock, PA 16057
724-794-2960 ext. 1013

Union Area School District
Marisa Federici, LEA
2106 Camden Avenue
New Castle, PA 16101
724-658-4775 ext. 1107

West Middlesex Area School District
Scott McCaskey, LEA
3591 Sharon Road
West Middlesex, PA 16159
724-634-3030 ext. 1127

Wilmington Area School District
Michael Conglose, LEA
300 Wood Street
New Wilmington, PA 16142
724-656-8866 ext. 6502

Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV
Director of Special Education
453 Maple Street
Grove City, PA 16127
724-458-6700 ext. 1206