

Kiski Area School District provides a free, appropriate, public education to gifted and other exceptional students according to state and federal law. To qualify as an exceptional student, the child must be of school age, must be in need of specially-designed instruction, and must meet eligibility criteria for mentally gifted and/or one or more of the following physical or mental disabilities, as set forth in Pennsylvania State Standards: autism/pervasive developmental disorder, blindness/visual impairment, deafness/hearing impairment, intellectual disability, multihandicap, neurological impairment, other health impairment, physical disability, serious emotional disturbance, specific learning disability, speech/language impairment.

The District engages in identification procedures to ensure that all students receive an appropriate educational program, consisting of gifted instruction or special education and related services which are individualized to meet the educational needs of the student, and reasonably calculated to yield meaningful educational benefit and student progress, at no cost to the parents and in compliance with state and federal law.

Various screening activities are conducted on an on-going basis to identify students who may be eligible for gifted or special education programs and services. When screening results suggest that a student might be exceptional, the District seeks parental consent to conduct a multidisciplinary evaluation.

Services designed to meet the needs of exceptional students include the annual development of an Individualized Education Program. The extent of special education services and the location for the delivery of such services are determined by the IEP team and are based on the student's identified needs and abilities, chronological age and the level of intensity of the specified intervention. The District also provides related services, such as transportation, physical therapy, and occupational therapy, required to enable the student to benefit from the special program. Parents are invited and encouraged to participate with the school personnel in their child's evaluation and the development of their child's IEP.

Parents who suspect that their child is exceptional may request an evaluation of their child at any time through a written request to Mr. Ray Milke, Director of Student Support Services, Kiski Area School District, 200 Poplar Street, Vandergrift PA 15690.