

Bradford Area School District Office of Student Support



Educational Support Programs and Services

If a child is identified by the District as possibly in need of special education and related services, the parent will be notified of applicable procedures. Individualized services and programs are available for children who are determined to need specially designed instruction due to the following conditions:

1. Autism/Pervasive Developmental Disorder
2. Deaf-Blindness
3. Deafness
4. Emotional Disturbance
5. Hearing Impairment
6. Mental Retardation
7. Multiple Disabilities
8. Orthopedic Impairment
9. Other Health Impairment
10. Specific Learning Disability
11. Speech or Language Impairment
12. Traumatic Brain Injury
13. Visual Impairment
14. Mentally Gifted

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (I.D.E.A.) intends to provide greater access of children with disabilities to the general curriculum. It is the belief of the district that the majority of children identified as eligible for special education and related services are capable of participating in the general curriculum to varying degrees with some adaptations and modifications. All special education programs and services offered by the district reference the general curriculum and are also available at the McKean County Prison.

Description of Educational Support Programs and Services

Autistic Support – This program serves students having a developmental disability; which significantly affects verbal and nonverbal communication and social interaction. These characteristics are generally evident before age 3. They also adversely affect a child's educational performance. Other characteristics often associated with autism are: engagement in repetitive activities and stereotyped movements, resistant to environmental change or change in daily routines, and unusual responses to sensory experiences. The term does not apply if a child's educational performance is adversely affected primarily because the child has an emotional disturbance. The Seneca Highlands Intermediate Unit's Autistic Support services are available to district students who have been diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder and present a need for this level of support.

Blind and Visually Impaired Support – Vision Support services are provided to students whose visual impairment, including blindness, adversely affects their educational performance. Determination of a visual impairment shall include a full assessment and comprehensive report by an eye specialist specifying the nature and degree of the impairment.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Impaired Support – Hearing Support services are provided to students who are deaf or hard of hearing. Students serviced would have a hearing loss, which interferes with the development of the communication process and results in failure to achieve educational potential. Determination of the hearing impairment shall include a report by an audiologist or otologist, or both, specifying the nature and degree of the impairment.

Emotional Support – The Emotional Support Program serves identified students whose emotional needs or mental illnesses interfere with their academic progress in the regular education environment. Instruction is provided based upon the student's individualized educational program. Students are included in regular education whenever possible based upon each student's unique needs. Behavior support components are designed and exercised in all educational settings when needed.

Learning Support – The Learning Support Program provides identified students with a program of individualized learning and continuous academic support. Reading, Language Arts, Spelling, Math, Social Studies, and Science are the main areas in which educational services are provided. The program is designed to help students who require special services, develop their knowledge and skills. Students in need of learning support services are included in regular education setting whenever possible and when deemed appropriate by the IEP team.

Life Skills Support – The Life Skills Support program serves students with overall delays who require multiple hands-on experiences for mastery to occur. Instruction is given individually and in small groups with aide assistance. Students are taught life skills in a functional setting. Students in need of life skills services are included in regular education setting whenever possible and when deemed appropriate by the IEP team.

Speech and Language Support – The Speech and Language Support Program provides specially designed instruction for students who have difficulties in communication skills. Areas of difficulty which can be addressed include: articulation (specific speed-sound production), language skill development (form, content and use), voice quality, and fluency (stuttering). One-on-one or small group instruction is provided in the speech therapy room setting or within the child's classroom depending upon which arrangement best meets the child's individual communication needs as determined by the student's IEP team.

Related Services - The IEP team determines the need for all related services. These include transportation and any developmental, corrective, or other supportive services as are required to assist a child with a disability to benefit from special education.

Psychological Services – School psychologists receive special training in child development, learning processes, emotional and behavioral adjustment, and psychological and instructional testing. The district's school psychologist can provide a variety of services to students, parents, teachers, and administrators. These services include psycho-educational testing to determine a student's academic strengths and needs, identification of students who might be in need of special education services, assistance in the development of appropriate educational plans designed to meet students' needs, individual or group counseling based on academic, social or emotional concerns, and consultation with parents and teachers about students' learning and adjustment. The school psychologist works cooperatively with students, parents, community members and school staff to assist with providing all students with a free and appropriate education.

Behavioral Support Services – Behavioral Support Services can be provided to students receiving their education in the general education population and/or students receiving special education services. Students' whose behavior is adversely impacting their academic performance within the curriculum or students' whose behavior is adversely impacting one or more areas of life functioning (peer relationships, etc.), may be candidates for Behavioral Support Services. Behavioral Support Services include, but are not limited to: the evaluation of a student's behavior within the education setting, analysis of data collected from the evaluation, the development of behavioral interventions, the implementation of

behavioral interventions, and the monitoring of those interventions as they relate to the student's behavioral goals and/or objectives identified via the behavioral evaluation. Students may be referred for behavioral support services by parents or guardians, administrators, guidance counselors, and/or teachers.

Extended School Year - The determination of whether or not a child with a disability needs an extended school year must be made annually on an individual basis by the child's IEP team. An eligible child is entitled to a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in excess of 180 days per year if regression caused by interruption in educational programming and limited recoupment capacity, or other factors, makes it unlikely that the student will attain or maintain skills and behavior relevant to established IEP goals and objectives.

Occupational Therapy – This service addresses fine motor concerns that interfere with an identified student's ability to benefit from or gain access to his/her educational program. A doctor's diagnosis and order are necessary for evaluation and treatment. This order must be renewed annually.

Physical Therapy – Identified students who have gross motor concerns that hinder their ability to benefit from or gain access to his/her educational program may be eligible for physical therapy services. A doctor's order is necessary for evaluation and treatment. This order must be renewed annually.

Gifted Support – The Gifted Support Program is designed to provide challenge for and meet the needs of mentally gifted students. Activities and units of study are presented in various subject areas. Overall goals include enhancing student self-esteem, building leadership, communication and interpersonal skills, and applying higher-level thinking skills.

Early Intervention – If you believe your young child (age 3 to school-age) is experiencing delays in his/her development, Early Intervention can help. Developmental delays can occur in one or more of the following areas: social and emotional development, physical development, communication (language and speech) development, cognitive development, or adaptive development (self-help skills). The Seneca Highlands Intermediate Unit Nine's Early Intervention Office (814/887-9287) is able to provide more information about services for eligible young children (age 3 to school-aged).

Title 1 Program – The Title 1 Program in the Bradford Area School District offers remedial reading services to students in grades K-5. This support includes small group instruction and consultation services to the classroom teachers.

Chapter 15 – In compliance with state and federal law, the Bradford Area School District will provide to each protected handicapped student without discrimination or cost to the student or family, those related aids, services or accommodations which are needed to provide equal opportunity to participate in and provide equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits of the school program and extracurricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate to the student's abilities. In order to qualify as a protected handicapped student, the child must be of school age with a physical or mental disability which substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to an aspect of the school program. These services and protections for "protected handicapped students" are distinct from those applicable to all eligible or exceptional students enrolled (or seeking enrollment) in special education programs.

ESL (English as a Second Language) – The Bradford Area School District offers an ESL program to any student with Limited English Proficiency (LEP). Educating these students is the responsibility of the Bradford Area School District. The program is designed to teach social and academic language skills (reading, writing, listening, and speaking) to our ESL population. It is also designed to meet the cultural aspects necessary to succeed and participate in meaningful educational programs. The ESL program is mandated by the federal and state governments for full implementation beginning the 2004 – 2005 school year. For additional information, please contact Katharine Pude, Assistant Superintendent, at 814/362-3841.

Vocational Programs – The following vocational programs are a part of the student curriculum options offered at Bradford Area High School:

Automotive	Carpentry
Computer Maintenance Technology	Drafting and Design
Natural Resources Management	Machine Technology
Marketing Education	Health Professions
Family Consumer Sciences	Childcare Education
Business Education	Capstone-Diversified Occupations

For more information regarding these programs, contact the High School at 814/362-3845.

Individuals in need of further information about child find, screening and evaluation procedures, (including purpose, time, and location), provisions of special education programs and services, and/or on the rights of parents and children, including the right to due process procedures, should contact any school administrator or guidance counselor at the following telephone numbers:

Assistant Superintendent	362-3841
Bradford Area High School	362-3845
Floyd C. Fretz Middle School	362-3508
School Street Elementary School	368-3183
George G. Blaisdell Elementary School	362-6834

or

Visit the district's website at www.bradfordareaschools.org