

CHARLEROI AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL EDUCATION INFORMATION

The Charleroi Area School District uses the following procedures for screening, identifying, and evaluating specified needs of school-aged students requiring special programs of service.

The district meets the health requirement screening as described in Section 1402 of the School Code. The district routinely conducts screening of a child's hearing acuity in the following grades: Kindergarten, 1,2,3,11 and others according to need. Visual acuity is screened in every grade. Height and weight data are collected yearly at every grade level. The hearing and visual acuity screenings are done along with the height and weight throughout the months of September and October. Dental exams will be conducted for Kindergarten and grade 3 on October 3, 2007 and grade 7 on October 19, 2007 in the respective schools. On October 19, 2007 physicals will be conducted for Kindergarten and grades 6 & 11. Scoliosis screenings are conducted for grades 6 & 7 on the same days as height, weight, hearing and visual screenings. Sports physicals are to be conducted on October 31, 2007. BMI screenings are done throughout the school year for grades 9-12. Immunizations are updated each year. Speech and language skills are screened upon referral from parents and/or professional staff. Gross motor and fine motor skills, academic skills, and social-emotional skills are assessed by classroom teachers on an on-going basis and referrals made when needed.

From time to time the school district will administer standardized tests to students. Reports of these tests are provided to the parents. In addition, most elementary students will be tested by their teachers to see if they have learned the particular skills being taught. These tests are given throughout the year. The PSSA/PASA is administered at the mandated grade levels in the fall and/or spring of each school year. Other testing occurs on the basis of individual need. Vocational interests tests may be given in the secondary schools. Report cards are issued quarterly. Any parent who has a question about the testing program should contact the Building Principal.

Standardized Testing Schedule for the 2007-2008 School Year

High School:

PSAT- October 17, 2007

SAT- March 1, 2007

PSSA -Retake for seniors. October 22 to November 2, 2007

PSSA –Writing Assessment, juniors only. February 11 to February 22, 2008

PSSA – Math and Reading Assessment, juniors only. February 18 to March 28, 2008

PSSA – Science Assessment, juniors only. May 1 to May 30, 2008

4Sight Test 1 – Grades 9,10 and 11. September 17 to September 21, 2007

4Sight Test 3 - Grades 9,10 and 11. January 15 to January 31, 2008

4Sight Test 4 – Grades 9, 10 and 11. May 15 to May 30, 2008

We do not take test #2.

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Middle School:

PSSA – Writing grade 8, February 12 to 14, 2008
PSSA – Writing make up grade 8, February 19, 2008
PSSA – Reading and Math grades 6, 7 & 8, April 1 to 3, 2008
PSSA – Reading and Math make up, April 8, 2008
PSSA – Science grade 8, April 29 to May 1, 2008
PSSA – Science make up grade 8, May 6, 2008
4Sight Math Assessment Test 1 – Grade 8, September 11 & 13, 2007
4Sight Math Assessment Make up- September 16 & 18, 2007
4Sight Math Assessment Test 3 – Grade 8, November 28 & 29, 2007
4Sight Math Assessment Make up – Grade 8, January 29 & 31, 2008
4Sight Math Assessment Test 4 – Grade 8, March 18 & 20, 2008

Elementary Center:

PSSA- Writing grade February 22, 2008
PSSA – Reading and Math April 1, 2008
PSSA – Science grade 4, April 29, 2008

At the elementary and secondary level, screening information is used by the Building Principal to address the specific needs of the student and/or to document the need for further evaluation. If it is determined that the child may need additional services, the child is referred to the Child Study Team. The Team includes the guidance counselor, parent, teachers, principal and other professional staff as warranted. The team will consult and the necessary adjustments relative to such areas as learning, behavior, and physical performance will be attempted to keep the child involved with traditional classroom experiences. If a student doesn't make progress, parents will be asked to give written permission for a multidisciplinary evaluation.

Parents with concerns regarding their child may contact the Building Principal at any time to request a screening or evaluation. The request shall be in writing. If the request is made orally, the parent will be asked to make the request in writing and will be provided with the proper form. Communication with parents and student shall be in English or their native language. For parents with hearing impairment, the school district will provide a person to communicate in sign language.

After the evaluation is completed, an Evaluation Report (ER) is compiled with parent input and determines if the student has a disability and is need of special education and related services. An Individualized Education Program (IEP) is developed for those students qualifying for special education services. The IEP Team consists of the following: the parents, the Building Principal/LEA, a special education teacher and a regular education teacher. Other team members may include: the student when appropriate, the school psychologist, public agency representative, other teachers or specialists, other administrative staff, etc. Parents are an integral part of the IEP Team and are encouraged to be physically present at the IEP meeting. The district makes every effort to ensure

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parent participation. The district notifies the parent in writing and makes documented phone calls to make parents aware of the IEP conference and the importance of parent participation. Parents are then presented a Notice of Recommended Educational Placement (NOREP) with which they agree or disagree. If parents agree, the IEP is implemented.

The Charleroi Area School District operates a comprehensive continuum of services for special needs students. Types of services available include: Learning Support which is primarily for students with academic learning needs, Life Skills Support which focuses primarily on the need for independent living skills, Emotional Support which addresses social and emotional difficulties, Multiple Disabilities Support which is for students with more than one disability, Physical Support for students whose need is the result of an orthopedic impairment, Autistic Support for those students diagnosed with Autism and/or Pervasive Developmental Disorder, Speech and Language Support which is for students who have articulation and/or expressive/receptive language difficulties, Hearing Support for students who are hearing impaired/deaf, and Vision Support is for students that are blind or visually impaired. The small number of students whose needs cannot be accommodated in the public school setting can receive services in an approved private school or other licensed facility at school district expense. No such placement is made without an IEP meeting and parental agreement.

If a child does not qualify for special education services, he/she may still be considered a protected handicapped student and require services under Chapter 15. A protected handicapped student is a student who is school age with a physical or mental disability, which substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to any aspect of the school program. Charleroi Area School District provides each protected handicapped student the aids, services or accommodations which are needed to provide equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits of the school program and extra curricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate to the student's abilities. If you believe your child comes under this classification and is in need of a service to assist him/her in benefiting from his/her education, you should contact the Building Principal.

The Charleroi Area School District recognizes the need to protect the confidentiality of personally identifiable information in the education records of exceptional children. The Charleroi Area School District has adopted policies to insure the privacy rights of both the parents and the exceptional child in the collection, maintenance, release, and destruction of these records. The Charleroi Area School District and its staff are required by Federal Law and State and Federal Rules and Regulations to protect the rights of students. The foundation of these rights comes from Federal Legislation entitled the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 – FERPA (also known as the Buckley Amendments). All students are protected by the State Regulations contained in Chapter 12 known as Students' Rights and Responsibilities. In addition, State Rules and Regulations protect regular and special education students' rights and privacy.

School records are always open and available to parents and only to school officials who have a legitimate "need to know" about the child. Disclosure of information means to permit the release, transfer or other communication of education records to any party, by oral, written and/or electronic means.

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The parents of a student or eligible student have the right to inspect and/or challenge their child's or their own educational records, to receive copies of the records, and to have a school official explain the records if requested.

Charleroi Area School District will release information from a student's education record without prior consent to officials of other primary or secondary schools or school systems in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. Transcripts to post-secondary institutions in which a student seeks or intends to enroll will be sent upon request of parents of a student or eligible student. Parents, upon written request, may receive a copy of records that may be released by the school district. The parents have the right to request that their child's or their educational records be changed if they are inaccurate, misleading, or violate student's rights, and to have a hearing if that request is refused. If parents are legally separated or divorced, both parents have equal rights to access of school records, unless the parent has a court order that indicates which parent has access to school records. The district must have a copy of the court order to be kept in the student file.

A more detailed explanation of these rights, the procedure to follow, and the limitations on the release of records are presented in the school district's policy on the collection, maintenance and release of student records. You may obtain a copy of this policy by contacting the Building Principal.

For further information on the screening procedures, evaluation procedures, and provisions of services to protected handicapped students, contact Dr. Tamara Stimmell, Assistant Superintendent, 125 Fecsen Drive, Charleroi, PA 15022.