

### Non-Discrimination Policy of the Hermitage School District

The Hermitage School District is an equal opportunity education institution and will not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, religion, marital status or handicap in its activities, programs or employment policies as required by Title IV, Title IX, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. For more information contact the Director of Special Services, Compliance Officer, 411 North Hermitage Road, Hermitage, PA 16148, (724) 981-8750 ext. 6015.

### Privacy Rights of Parents and Students

The school district and its employees 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 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (also known as the Buckley Amendment). There are some rules and regulations dealing with regular and special education students' rights and privacy. All students are covered by the state regulations contained in Chapter 12, known as Students' Rights and Responsibilities. The basic premise of these laws, rules, and regulations is that information about students cannot be disclosed without written parental consent. A more detailed description of the Family Educational Right and Privacy Act can be found on our website under, "Annual Public Notice".

### Procedures Regarding Handicapped Students

The Hermitage School District assures all handicapped students will be provided with an equal opportunity to participate in extra-curricular programs and activities as are non-handicapped students. Handicapped students will be provided with reasonable support services or accommodations in accordance with individual needs. If you feel a handicapped student is in need of additional support services, or if you have any questions, concerning this, please contact the Director of Special Services at (724) 981-8750 ext. 6015.

### Chapter 15 Protected Handicapped Student

A protected handicapped student is a school age student with a physical or mental disability which substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to any aspect of the school program.

In compliance with State and Federal Law, Hermitage 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 obtain the benefits of the school program and extracurricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate to the student's abilities. These services and protections for "protected handicapped student" are distinct from those applicable to all eligible or exceptional students enrolled (or seeking enrollment) in special education programs.

Special Education: 342,23; 14.25 (b); 14.21 (a)

The Hermitage School District seeks to identify any handicapped child, ages 3-6, and a resident of the Hermitage School District. The specific purpose is to engage the parent/guardian and child in early identification and to institute the appropriate education interventions. Confidentiality of information is guaranteed. Parents/guardians of identified special education students are afforded specific rights by law. These rights are, but not limited to, annual program review, request for evaluation/re-evaluation, records review and specific procedural rights in matters of dispute over educational programs/planners. For information regarding services, activities, programs and facilities that are accessible to and usable by handicapped persons, contact the Director of Special Services, at (724) 981-8750 ext. 6015.

Chapter 16 Gifted Education

The Hermitage School District offers a comprehensive K-12 program for students who are mentally gifted. Informational brochures are available in the Principal's Office or Guidance Office of each building. Parents may obtain information about evaluation for "thought to be gifted" students from the Principal's Office or the Director of Special Services at (724) 981-8750 ext. 6015.

Special Education Programs

The District is committed to providing programming, either within or outside of the district, to meet the unique educational needs of all students.

There are 13 categories of special education as defined by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). They are:

- Autism
- Blindness
- Deafness
- Emotional Disturbance
- Hearing Impairment
- Intellectual Disability
- Multiple Disabilities
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Other Health Impaired
- Specific Learning Disability
- Speech or Language Impairment
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Visual Impairment

**Approved Private Schools**

For information regarding the services, activities, programs and facilities that are accessible to and useable by handicapped persons contact Director of Special Services, telephone (724) 981-8750 ext. 6015.