

## Notice of Change in Eligibility for Free and Appropriate Public Education

Dear Parent/Guardian:

On August 30, 2023, after business hours, the District received notice from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, of a significant policy change that impacts all public school districts.

You are receiving this letter because your child had an IEP when they were enrolled in the District, and either turned 21 during the 2022-2023 school year, or between the end of that school year and the beginning of this school year, 2023-2024. Under this new policy, your child is now eligible to return for a portion of this school year (2023-2024)-until the day before your child turns 22.

**Your child's eligibility to re-enroll and return to education in the District continues until the day before their 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday.**

Therefore, your child has the following rights:

1. To re-enroll and receive a Free Appropriate Public Education until your child turns 22. Should you be interested in re-enrollment, please contact: Kim Stroup, district registrar or Heather Hornung, Special Education Supervisor. Instructions and information are posted on the reverse side of this letter. Additional information is posted on the District's website at [www.mlbgsd.k12.pa.us](http://www.mlbgsd.k12.pa.us) and at [www.education.pa.gov/Documents/IDEAB.pdf](http://www.education.pa.gov/Documents/IDEAB.pdf) <https://www.education.pa.gov/Pages/IDEABFAQ.aspx>.

OR

2. To remain exited/graduated from the District and decline the opportunity for re-enrollment.

As you consider these options, please note the following:

1. No child is required to re-enroll. Your child is not required to attend school.
2. If your child has received funding for adult services, you should contact your County agency to determine what impact a return to school-age programming has on your child's eligibility or continued eligibility for adult services, including Medicaid Waiver services.
3. If you re-enroll your child, the District will do its best to fully implement the services and supports as outlined in the Individualized Education Program (IEP) that was in place before your child exited (and any necessary revisions). Because the District had only one (1) day's notice of this new legal obligation, it is still investigating whether all interested and eligible students are able to return to their prior placement for implementation of their IEP. If your child's prior placement is not available (for

example, because classroom occupancy has been reached or a contracted placement is not available), then the District will work quickly to find an alternate option.

This new legal obligation was a complete surprise to all public schools in the Commonwealth. The District is committed to meet this new obligation and will work with you as you decide what you desire for your child. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email Heather Hornung at the following contact information: [hornungh@mlbgd.k12.pa.us](mailto:hornungh@mlbgd.k12.pa.us) or by phone at 717-692-2108 ext. 3158