



Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21

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EQUITABLE PARTICIPATION for MERCY LEARNING CENTER PARENT PROCESS to FOLLOW Revised July 1, 2019

In order for children to receive consultative or group occupational therapy and/or *physical therapy services through the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 at Mercy Special Learning Center, **parents** must do the following:

- If your child has previously gone through the evaluation and IEP process at your resident school district, secure copies of the Evaluation or Re-evaluation Report, NOREP and IEP and provide to the Mercy Administrator.
- If your child has not been previously evaluated by your resident school district, you must request an evaluation of your child. Sign the necessary paperwork requested by the school district. Participate in your child's IEP. When a program is offered for your child, you have the right to refuse the offered program and inform the District of your intent to enroll or maintain your child at Mercy. Secure copies of the Evaluation or Re-evaluation Report, NOREP and IEP and provide to the Mercy Administrator.
- If your child is recommended for occupational therapy and/or *physical therapy services by the district, they are eligible to receive consultative or group services at Mercy Special Learning Center under **Equitable Participation**. Equitable Participation is a right to receive some benefit from publicly-funded special education programs that applies to nonpublic school students as a group. The provision of federal law requiring equitable participation does not establish an individual entitlement to a particular level or type of service on the part of any particular student.
- Mercy will complete and submit the Equitable Participation Referral form, along with the Evaluation Report, NOREP, and the IEP to the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21.
- After the IU receives the completed paperwork, services can begin at Mercy Special Learning Center. The Intermediate Unit will give the signed Equitable Participation to therapists providing services at Mercy Special Learning Center.
- Identified students also have the right to be re-evaluated every 3 years.
- Direct services for the child will continue each year, as funding provides, unless deemed no longer eligible.

*For physical therapy, the child **MUST ALSO HAVE a PHYSICIAN'S PRESCRIPTION** in order to receive physical therapy services.

Helping Children Learn

"CLIU is a service agency committed to Helping Children Learn."