



## **BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Student Services**  
**45 Mount Rock Road**  
**Newville, PA 17241**  
**(717) 776-2422**

March 31, 2020

Dear Parent or Guardian,

As Dr. Fry mentioned in his latest video message, Big Spring has formalized a Continuity of Education K-12 plan for delivering enrichment and learning remotely. The plan is posted on the District web page and includes guidelines for gifted staff to follow. Our goal for our gifted staff, is to provide remote learning enrichment activities at the same frequency as your child's regular education teachers. They will also be holding google meets, staying in contact with you and/or your child via e-mail, and/or maintaining office hours just as the other staff in the building. If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail your child's gifted teacher.

I also want to take a moment to discuss the implementation of your child's GIEP. As you can imagine, no-one ever anticipated the need for social distancing or a circumstance where our staff would not be able to have direct in person contact with their students for an "indefinite" period of time. We are not proposing any changes to your child's GIEP at this time, and we will, as much as is possible under these unusual circumstances, connect our remote enrichment activities to the services and supports that your child would receive under normal circumstances.

Each week, included in the enrichment activities plan that is posted under your gifted teacher's folder on our web page, your child's gifted teacher will highlight which skills, goal areas and/or modifications in your child's GIEP connect to the activities for that week.

Of course, the ability for us to provide interactive enrichment activities requires internet access as well as the ability to log into our various remote platforms. If you do not have access or your child cannot log in *and you have not already contacted us via our regular education request for printed copies* please contact your child's special teacher or call 717-776-2465.

We will keep you informed of your child's participation on these enrichment activities as well as any changes on a regular basis. We look forward to partnering with you in the delivery of education during these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William Gillet'.

William Gillet  
Director of Pupil services



# BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Gifted Education

45 Mount Rock Road

Newville, PA 17241

### NOTICE OF RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT

#### For a Gifted Student

Date: 3/31/2020

Dear Parent,

This letter summarizes recently developed recommendations or proposed changes for your child's education program and/or assignment.

1.  **New Entry:** Your child should begin to receive gifted education services. The school district will not proceed without your approval of this recommendation (the *Gifted Individualized Education Plan* is attached).
2.  **Change:** Your child's gifted education placement or services should be changed as noted in the Gifted Individualized Education Plan. The school district will proceed with this change unless you notify us with your written disapproval (the Gifted Individualized Education Plan is attached. You have 10 calendar days to respond to a notice of recommended assignment sent by mail or five calendar days to respond to a notice presented in person at the conclusion of a Gifted Individualized Education Plan conference. If you receive the notice in person and approve the recommended assignment within five calendar days, we may not implement the Gifted Individualized Education Plan for at least five calendar days, to give you an opportunity to notify us within the five-day period of a decision to revoke the previous approval of the recommended assignment.
3.  **No longer in Need:** Your child is no longer in need of specially designed instruction. We recommend current gifted education services be discontinued. The school district will proceed with this change unless you notify us with your written disapproval. You have 10 calendar days to respond to a notice of recommended assignment sent by mail or five calendar days to respond to a notice presented in person at a gifted team meeting. If you receive the notice in person and approve the recommended assignment within five calendar days, we may not discontinue services within five calendar days to give you the opportunity to notify us within the five- day period of a decision to revoke the previous approval of the recommended assignment
4.  **Graduate:** Your child is graduating from high school. All gifted education services will cease at the end of the current school term.
5.  **Not exceptional:** Your child is not in need of gifted education and should continue in his/her present assignment
6.  **Refusal:** The school district is refusing your request to initiate or change your child's:
 

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Identification        | <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluation             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational placement | <input type="checkbox"/> Provision of education |

The reason and basis for this refusal are: \_\_\_\_\_

7.  **Other:**  
This notice serves to inform you that: (1) the District will provide continuity of education for your child; (2) the District will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that your child receives Gifted Services as required by Chapter 16 of the PA School Code based upon his/her individual circumstances and the mandated school closure; and (3) your child's education will likely differ from the services and support found in the current GIEP due to the Governor's closure of schools during the pandemic, as the District may not be able to provide all of the services required.

The District is issuing this CE NORA to notify you of the action it is taking to ensure your child's GIEP is implemented with as much fidelity as is possible during mandated social distancing and the closure of all non-life-essential businesses, when teachers and students do not have access to the same resources as when school is open. The District will issue CE plans for your child on a weekly basis to update you on day-to-day learning specifics. This CE NORA and the corresponding CE plan will remain in effect only during the period of mandated school closure.

This assignment was recommended after a review of the options that were used to assist in identifying the services and programs that will meet your child's needs. The assignment recommended for your child is:

- General Education
- Gifted Support
  - Enrichment in the following areas(s): NA

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  - Acceleration in the following area(s): NA

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  - Enrichment/Acceleration Combination in the following area(s): NA

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Reasons the recommendation is appropriate (Include evaluation procedures, reports and other factors used in making the recommendations)

Due to the outbreak of the coronavirus, specifically COVID-19, and the Governor-mandated closure of all public school districts, the District has suspended all in-person learning and instruction until schools are allowed to re-open. The District will not change the gifted services found in your child’s GIEP, but will initiate planning and instruction to reflect the best efforts it will take to provide CE, tethered to your child’s GIEP. This CE NORA serves as notification to you of this action: (1) that the District will provide continuity of education for your child; (2) that your child will receive gifted services, but based upon his/her individual circumstances and the mandated school closure; and your child’s education will likely differ from the services and support found in his/her current GIEP due to the Governor’s closure of schools during the pandemic, as the District may not be able to fully implement all of the services required by your child’s IEP. As part of the District’s commitment to your child, the GIEP team will review and assess him/her, upon return to regular schooling.

Description of the options that were considered and the reason why those options were rejected:

Social distancing, as the primary method to prevent the spread of the coronavirus/COVID-19, prohibits in-person instruction and the learning opportunities that normally occur through the services present in your child s GIEP

Richard Fry  
School District Superintendent

  
Signature

3/31/2020  
Date

You have certain rights which are described in the attached Notice of Parental Rights. Please carefully read the information. If you need more information, you may contact:

William P. Gillet  
Name

Director of Pupil Services.  
Position

3/31/2020  
Date

45 Mount Rock Road, Newville PA 17241  
Address

717-776-2000 x2402  
Phone

Gillet@bigspring.k12.pa.us  
E-Mail Address

**DIRECTIONS FOR PARENTS:** Please check one of the options, sign this form, and return it within 10 days to the person listed above.

- I **approve** this recommendation
- I **do not approve** this recommendation

My reason for **disapproval** is:

\_\_\_\_\_

I request:

- Due-process Hearing\*
- Mediation\*

\_\_\_\_\_ I will need the following accommodations to be made so that I may attend the above.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail Address

\_\_\_\_\_ I have received a copy of the Notice of Parental Rights for Gifted Students  
(Please initial)

- The enclosed Notice of Parental Rights provides information on the options listed above.