

## SPECIAL EDUCATION CHILD FIND

The Brockway Area School District provides a full range of special education programs and/or services for students identified as exceptional. Programs/services are provided at no cost to parents and are individualized to meet the educational needs of each student.

Programs operated within the district include learning support for students whose primary need is academic learning; gifted support for students identified as mentally gifted; and speech and language support for students with speech and/or language impairments that affect academic achievement.

A variety of related services and itinerant programs are also available within the district, including speech and language therapy, psychological services, physical and occupational therapy, sensory support ( vision or hearing loss), and school health services.

More specialized programs are also available to severe students who need independent living skills, need full-time emotional support, or have multiple disabilities.

### What to do.....

If you think your child has a speech (articulation) problem: Talk to your child's teacher. Then you may choose to contact our speech and language therapist, Mrs. Stephanie Donati, by calling the elementary office.

Mrs. Donati will do a quick screening to determine if the concern is developmental (in other words, it will likely improve on its own as the child gets older) or if further steps need to be taken.

If you think your child is having academic or behavioral difficulties in school: Parents are encouraged to discuss such concerns with their child's teacher initially. Then either you or your child's teacher can make an IST (Instructional Support Team) referral by contacting Mrs. Ransbottom, our assistant elementary principal.

At the IST meeting, information about current performance and concerns are reviewed and strategies to help your child in school and/or at home are developed. If the concerns still exist, you may be asked to sign a request for permission to conduct a Multidisciplinary Evaluation (MDE). Following this in-depth evaluation, a report describing the results will be shared with you. You will then sit in as part of a team to make a decision about whether or not your child is eligible for special education services (such as learning support).

Please note that you have the option of bypassing the IST process and making a request for an MDE at any point. A "Parent Request for a Multidisciplinary Evaluation/Reevaluation" form is available from Mrs. Ransbottom.

If you think your child may be mentally gifted: Students are screened for testing for the gifted support program by reviewing results of the annual achievement tests in all grades and the group ability tests administered in grade 2 and 4 as well as through the recommendation by classroom teachers.

Referrals for testing may also be made by parents. If you would like to discuss your child's qualifications for this program, please contact Mrs. Ransbottom.