

**Disabilities supported by
Athens Area School District:**

Autism
Deaf/Blindness
Emotional Disturbance
Gifted
Hearing Impairment including Deafness
Intellectually Disabled
Multiple Disabilities
Orthopedic Impairment
Other Health Impairment
Specific Learning disability
Speech or Language Impairment
Traumatic Brain Injury
Visual Impairment including Blindness

**Services available to students of
Athens Area School District:**

- ◇ Autistic Support
- ◇ Emotional Support
- ◇ Gifted Support
- ◇ Hearing Support
- ◇ Learning Support
- ◇ Life Skills Support
- ◇ Speech & Language Support
- ◇ Vision Support

Related Services offered:

Special Transportation
Audiological Services
Psychological Services
Physical Therapy
Occupational Therapy
Counseling Services
Parent Counseling, Training
Speech and Language Pathology/Therapy
Adaptive Physical Education
Behavior Intervention Program
Assistive Technology Devices and Services
Rehabilitation Counseling
Interpreter
Orientation and Mobility
Work Experience
Extended School Year
Aide Assistance

Athens Area School District

Craig Stage
Superintendent
888-7766, ext. 4247

Jenny Shores
Business Manager
888-7766, ext. 4249

Special Services Department

Erick Cummings
Director of Special Services
100 Canal Street Athens, PA 18810
570-888-7766, option 5

Neil Wheaton
Intervention Specialist
570-888-7766 ext. 4285

Amy Reed
School Psychologist
Lynch Bustin Elementary
570-888-7766, ext. 4286

Laura Donath
School Psychologist
SRU Elementary/High School
570-888-7766, ext. 4288

Emily Norton
School Psychologist
Harlan Rowe Middle School
570-888-7766 ext. 4295

Kirsten DeLosa
Transition Coordinator
570-888-7766

Katie Coe
Student Services Coordinator
882-6289 or 888-7766, ext. 4289

Lisa Horton
Student Services Coordinator/Title 1
882-6289 or 888-7766, ext. 4351

Athens Area School
District

Student Services
Department

Mr. Erick Cummings
Director of Student Services

Annual Notice of
Offerings
For Students

2023-2024



Athens Area School District recognizes that every student has particular learning needs. These needs can be addressed through a regular education class; inclusion in a regular class with supportive services; a special education class; or a special program. To develop an effective educational program for each student, identification activities are available to discover individual strengths and weaknesses. This is done with specially trained personnel having the goal of choosing an appropriate educational setting for each child. The identification process can be initiated by the school or by parent request. Our district is committed to providing each student the opportunity to maximize their individual learning potential. Thus, we provide a continuum of educational settings to accommodate each student.

Athens Area School District routinely conducts screenings, *as prescribed in section 1402 of the PA School Code*, of:

Hearing Acuity: kindergarten through 3rd grade, 7th and 11th grades, referrals from other grades as well as parent requests, for all students prior to a psychological evaluation

Vision Acuity: kindergarten through 12th grade as well as at all kindergarten registrations, and by parent request, for all students prior to a psychological evaluation

Speech and Language Assessments: through referrals, parent requests, and screenings for kindergarten and 3rd grade students.

Dental Exams are required and offered to students in grades 1, 3, and 7.

Physical Exams are required and offered to students in kindergarten and grades 6 and 11.

Gross motor and fine motor skills, academic skills, social/emotional skills are assessed by classroom teachers on an on-going basis. Specified needs from all these screening sources are noted within the child's official file. *These confidential school records are always open to parents, and only available to school officials who have a legitimate need to know' information about the child.*

Information from the records is released to other persons or agencies only with appropriate authorization which involves signed permission from the parents. Parents with concerns regarding their student may contact their building principal at any time to discuss their child having a screening or possible consideration for the **Child Study Team (CST)** for their child. Communication with parents and students with disabilities will be in English or the native language of the parents.

Screening information will be used by the **CST** team within the student's school to meet his/her specific needs or to document the need for further evaluation. This intervention process is a required element prior to evaluation. If it is determined that a child needs additional services, the team will make adjustments relative to such things as the child's learning style, behavior, physical inabilities, and speech problems to be more in keeping with traditional classroom expectations. When the evaluations are completed, an **Evaluation Report (ER)** is developed and will include specific information as to whether the child has a disability. Parents participate in a meeting where the results of the evaluation will be discussed and a placement will be decided. An **Individual Educational Program (IEP)** will be developed with specialized services for the student which will aid him/her to become academically successful. Parents are an integral part of the IEP team and need to be physically present at the IEP Team Meeting. The district will make every effort to insure parent participation. The Special Services Office will notify parents in writing, make documented phone calls, or employ other means to make parents aware of the IEP conference and the need for parental participation. Parents are given a **Notice of Recommended Educational Placement (NOREP)** with which they may agree or disagree. If at any time, the parents or the teachers don't feel the program is working to the maximum benefit of the student, they have the right to call a new IEP Team meeting to discuss how we might better meet the student's needs.

Athens Area School District provides the above-mentioned screening activities throughout the

school year. However, if, as a parent, you feel a need to have your child screened for learning problems or a possible disability, please contact the principal of your child's school. Your request will be channeled to either the CST team or the Director of Special Services, which ever is appropriate. For further information about these procedures or information about early intervention, parent's rights, mediation, due process procedures, or specific special education services please contact:

Mr. Erick Cummings, Director of Student Services
Student Services Office
100 Canal Street
Athens PA 18810

You may also contact Mr. Cummings by phone, fax, and email:
(570) 882-6289
(570) 888-7766 opt. 5
FAX: (570) 882.6288
ecummings@athensasd.org

If, for some reason, you should need or require more information, you may call the Intermediate Unit's Procedural Safeguards Coordinator at:
(570) 323-8561

As a parent, you have the right to obtain an independent evaluation for your child at public expense if you disagree with an evaluation conducted by AASD. An independent evaluation is an evaluation by a qualified professional who is not an employee of AASD. Again, contact Erick Cummings, Director of Special Services to discuss this possibility.

Each child is of prime importance to us at Athens Area School District. They come to us but once and we promise to make that experience the best possible for them. We need to build foundations for their future.

Athens Area School District's Mission Statement:

***'Building Foundations
For Future Success!'***

Parents and school working together,
collaboratively, insures success for your children
and our students.