BRENTWOOD

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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

BY DR. AMY M. BURCH

DELAYED BUT UNDETERRED

After careful consideration, the Brentwood Borough School District determined in mid-July that the new Brentwood Elementary School would not be ready for occupancy in time for the start of the 2026-27 school year.

While we are disappointed, we are undeterred! We believe this decision was in the best interest of our students and staff and will allow the district to ensure the building meets the high standards our community expects and deserves.

As a result, our Kindergarten through fifth grade students and staff will begin the school year on Tuesday, September 8 at Elroy and Moore Elementary Schools while construction on the new building is completed. Although the project made significant progress throughout the spring and early summer, factors such as weather and insufficient workforce during critical phases of construction prevented the project from maintaining the pace necessary to meet the contracted completion date.

At this time, we anticipate the facility will be substantially completed by the end of October. Pennsylvania Department of Education regulations, though, do not permit a mid-semester move into a new school. This timeline will allow the district to thoroughly test all building systems, complete final inspections, and ensure every aspect of the facility meets our expectations before welcoming students and staff.

Brentwood Elementary students will participate in remote learning on Monday, January 4 and Tuesday, January 5, 2027 to allow teachers and staff time to set-up their classrooms. Middle and high school students will have a regular school day on Jan. 4-5. Additional information will be provided soon to families about any other changes to the 2026-27 school calendar as well as class rosters and other items related to the start of school on September 8.

We recognize this delay is disappointing for everyone. The new elementary school is a significant investment in the future of the district and the broader Brentwood community. When its doors open, this school will deliver a modern, future-ready learning environment that will benefit students, families and the community for years to come! We firmly believe that today's students learn best when they can interact, explore and engage and this building is designed around those principles.

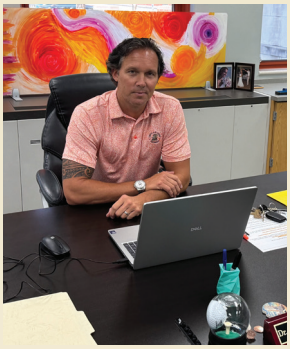
Since the beginning of this project, the district has been committed to delivering a school that reflects the investment our community has made. We will not cut corners or accept work that does not meet the standards established for this transformational facility. Taking the necessary time now will ensure that when students and staff enter the building in January, they will do so with confidence that every system has been thoroughly tested and every space is ready to support teaching and learning.

During November and December, we look forward to introducing our school community to the new building through open houses and other events. Additional information regarding school operations, traffic patterns, arrival and dismissal procedures, and other important details will be shared later this fall. We will continue to share regular updates on the progress of Brentwood Elementary on our social media platforms and district website.

Thank you for your understanding. While we are disappointed, we are approaching this fall as the start of the new Brentwood Elementary School. The teachers, staff and administration are committed to having an outstanding first semester in Elroy and Moore, while sharing some of the many exciting and modern features of the new school that students will be able to enjoy in just a few months.

On behalf of the district, we are very appreciative your continued support, trust and dedication to our students.

DR. DOUG SZOKOLY JOINS DISTRICT AS CURRICULUM COORDINATOR



The Brentwood Borough School District is pleased to welcome Dr. Doug Szokoly as its new Coordinator of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development (CIPD).

The Brentwood Board of School Directors approved Dr. Szokoly's appointment at its May meeting. He began his duties in early July and comes to Brentwood after serving as principal at Cornell High School since 2015.

"We are excited to welcome Dr. Szokoly to the Brentwood Borough School District," said Dr. Amy Burch, Brentwood SD Superintendent. "Dr. Szokoly brings a variety of experiences in curriculum and instruction, along with a strong commitment to supporting teaching and learning at every level. His leadership will help us continue the positive momentum already established in the district, ensuring that the Brentwood School District remains focused on innovation, collaboration and excellence for all students and staff."

"I am honored and excited to become part of the Brentwood community and join a district with such a strong tradition of supporting students, families and educators," Dr. Szokoly stated. "As I begin this new role, I look forward to collaborating with students, staff, families and community members to continue strengthening the educational experiences we provide for all learners."

Dr. Szokoly had served as principal at Cornell High School since 2015. Prior to his tenure at Cornell, Dr. Szokoly served as a Unit Principal at Mt. Lebanon High School for 5 ½ years. He also was a Technology Education teacher in the Penn Trafford School District for seven years, earning his Master's degree while at Penn Trafford.

A native of Munhall, Dr. Szokoly is a graduate of Pennsylvania Western University California with a degree in Technology Education. He earned his Master's in Multimedia Technology, with high honors, from PennWest California. Dr. Szokoly earned his doctorate in Leadership and Education from Point Park University and his Superintendent's Letter, Principal K-12 Certificate and Curriculum Supervisor Certificate from the University of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Szokoly garnered Dean's List honors as an undergraduate at PennWest California and graduated Magna Cum Laude as a Master's student. The Steel Valley High School graduate also was selected a Penguins Most Valuable Principal (MVP) at Cornell in 2024.

KATY MONTGOMERY NAMED SECONDARY COUNSELOR

Katy Montgomery has been selected as the new Brentwood High School Counselor. Ms. Montgomery replaces long-time teacher and counselor Linda Capozzoli, who retired in June.

Ms. Montgomery has been a member of the Brentwood SD team since January 2023. Since her Brentwood internship as a master's student, Katy has served in the district as a long-term substitute for the high school counselor, a paraprofessional and assistant high school varsity swimming coach.

Ms. Montgomery earned her B.S. in Psychology from the University of Pittsburgh and her M.Ed. in School Counseling from Duquesne University.

CONGRATS TO BRENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL'S CLASS OF 2026!

Seventy-four members of Brentwood High School's Class of 2026 received their diplomas as the district held its 93rd Commencement ceremony.

Valedictorian Emma Simmons plans to attend Duquesne University and study Psychology and Salutatorian Nia Aten will enroll in the University of Pittsburgh's School of Public Health. Senior class president Rey Ramirez plans to attend CCAC and study Aviation Technology.

Three members of the Brentwood Class of 2026 plan to enter the military: Paige Byers (U.S. Navy), Jacob Patterson (U.S. Marines) and Lesly Pena-Garcia (Pennsylvania National Guard). Brentwood Superintendent Dr. Amy Burch announced the names of the 20-plus seniors who received a total of 35 scholarships.

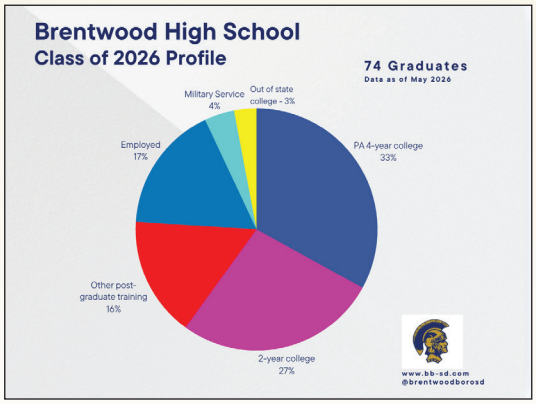
More than 25 different languages are spoken by Brentwood students and 11 seniors began the ceremony by welcoming the attendees in their native languages: Jonathan Matanda (Swahili), Prince Byiringiro (Kinyarwanda), Tafssira Garba Gambari (Ewe), Fatimah Ismael (Arabic), Hamid Mohebi (Dari), Deng Mu (Dinka), Salina Rai (Nepali) and Christopher Mejia-Lopez, Lesly Pena-Garcia, Rey Ramirez and Almendra Rosales Leon (Spanish).

What are the plans for Brentwood's 2026 graduates?

Among the 74 graduates:

- 46 plan to attend a two or four-year college (14 different institutions);
- 12 are headed to other post-graduate training (4 different schools or programs);
- 13 are employed;
- 3 are entering the military.

Best of luck in your next chapter Class of 2026!!

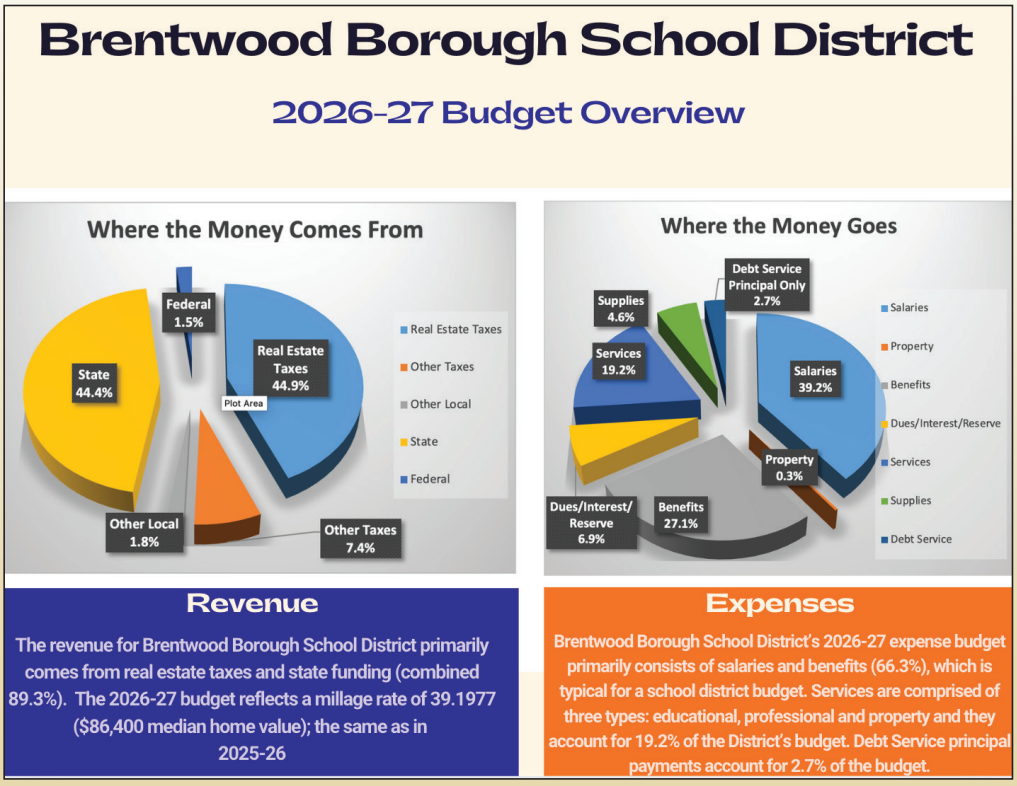


NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR MS-HS STUDENTS IN LIBRARY/ MEDIA CENTER

When Brentwood Middle-High School students and staff return in September they will find a library/ media center that has been completely transformed!

Soon after the 2025-26 school year ended in early June, the district began a significant renovation of the library/media center. In addition to library books, the space will include these new features for our students and staff for the upcoming school year:

- One touch recording studio
- Podcast station
- Green screen
- Spartan Coffee
- Kitchenette
- Long S-shaped couch
- Device charging station
- Personal study booths
- Large Group Instruction space



BRENTWOOD HS SPORTS SCHEDULES

All schedules for middle school and high school activities can be found on the Brentwood Borough School District website (www.bb-sd.com). Any other information can be obtained by contacting Mr. Roger Gaughan (412-881-4940 ext. 2720) or by e-mail at roger.gaughan@bb-sd.com.

Admission fees set for home Athletic Events

The admission fees for athletic events sponsored by the district are as follows (unchanged from last year):

Football	Adult $6.00	Senior Citizen $4.00	Students $4.00
Basketball	Adult $6.00	Senior Citizen $4.00	Students $4.00
Volleyball	Adult $4.00	Senior Citizen $3.00	Students $3.00
Swimming	Adult $4.00	Senior Citizen $3.00	Students $3.00

In addition, active military personnel will be admitted free of charge with military identification. For any athletic event not noted above, admission is free.

Golden Ager Card Available

Once again, as in previous years, the "Golden Ager" card will be available to Brentwood residents 65 years of age or older. The card provides free admission to all events sponsored by Brentwood Borough School District.

Please note that the "Golden Ager" card is only valid for Brentwood SD HOME events. The card is not valid at away events, WPIAL or PIAA playoff events. The "Golden Ager" card is available at the district Administration Office in the lower level of the middle-high school during office hours, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

PROTECT YOUR STUDENT'S DEVICE – IT'S WORTH IT! ENROLL IN THE BBSD TECHNOLOGY PROTECTION PLAN

Did you know the Brentwood Borough School District offers a Technology Protection Plan to safeguard your child's one-to-one device? Each year, families face unexpected repair or replacement costs after accidental damage to school-issued devices – and many wish they had signed up for the insurance plan when they had the chance.

Avoid stress, frustration and out-of-pocket expenses by enrolling in the BBSD Technology Program before school begins!

What Does the Plan Cover?

The Technology Protection Plan covers the device loaned to your child, as well as any temporary replacements (excluding daily loaners), for incidents of accidental damage. This can include things like:

- A cracked screen
- Accidental drops or bumps
- General wear and tear from daily use

What's NOT Covered:

- Lost or stolen devices
- Damage from neglect (i.e. left in a car, exposed to liquids, pet damage, etc.)
- Intentional misuse or rough handling
- Multiple accidental damage claims (i.e. more than one screen break or accessory damage)
- Lost chargers or accessories

Premium Cost:

- $30 per student, per school year ($3.33 per month)
- $15 per school year for students who qualify for free or reduced lunch.

Please note: Premiums are non-refundable for partial years or semesters.

Why It Matters:

The costs of repairs or replacement without insurance can add up quickly:

- Charger: $30
- Screen Repair: $50
- Chromebook Replacement: $225
- Surface Laptop Replacement: $248

For just $30 a year, you're protecting yourself from hundreds of dollars in potential costs. One accident could make this small investment more than worth it!

How to Sign Up:

Visit the Brentwood Borough School District website (www.bb-sd.com) and look under the "Technology" section for complete details and the enrollment form.

Protect your investment. Protect your peace of mind. Enroll in the BBSD Technology Protection Program today!

FOLLOW BRENTWOOD BOROUGH SD:

www.bb-sd.com

@brentwoodborosd

BRENTWOOD BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANNUAL CHILD FIND NOTICE

3601 Brownsville Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15227-3117
412-881-2227 | bb-sd.com

School districts annually must provide notification or periodic notification of policies to students, staff, parents/guardians and district residents. The district website (www.bb-sd.com) contains a listing of required district policies and regulations.

ANNUAL PUBLIC NOTICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AND PROGRAMS, SERVICES FOR GIFTED STUDENTS, SERVICES FOR PROTECTED HANDICAPPED STUDENTS AND SERVICES FOR ENGLISH LEARNERS

Each school district, along with other public agencies in the Commonwealth, must establish and implement procedures to identify, locate and evaluate all children who need special education programs and services because of the child's disability. This notice is to help find these children, assist parents, and describes the parents' rights with regard to confidentiality of information that will be obtained during this process. Each school district is required to annually provide notice describing the identification activities and the procedures followed to ensure confidentially of personally identifiable information. This notice is intended to meet this requirement.

The content of this notice has been written in English but can be translated into other languages. If a person does not understand any of this notice, they should contact the Special Education Department at 412-881-4940 x2215 and request an explanation.

If you have any questions about this notice, please contact:

Ali Rendulic, Director of Special Education,
Brentwood Borough SD
412-881-4940 x2216
alexandra.rendulic@bb-sd.com

SERVICES AND IDENTIFICATION ACTIVITIES FOR SCHOOL-AGE STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

(22 Pa. Code Chapter 14)

Child Find refers to activities undertaken by public education agencies to identify, locate and evaluate children residing in the district, including children attending private schools, who are suspected of having disabilities and determine the child's need for special education and related services. The purpose is to locate these children so that a free appropriate public education (FAPE) can be made available to eligible students.

The Brentwood Borough School District provides a free, appropriate, public education to eligible students. To qualify as an eligible student, the child must be of school age, in need of specially designed instruction and meet the eligibility criteria for one or more of the following disabilities as set forth in the Pennsylvania State Regulations: Autism, Deaf-Blindness, Deafness, Emotional Disturbance, Hearing Impairment, Intellectual Disability, Multiple Disabilities, Orthopedic Impairment, Other Health Impairment, Specific Learning Disability, Speech or Language Impairment, Traumatic Brain Injury, or Visual Impairment (including blindness).

Identification activities are performed to find a child who is suspected of having a disability that would interfere with their learning unless special education programs and services are made available. These activities are sometimes called screening activities. The activities include: review of group data, conducting hearing and vision screening, assessment of student's academic functioning, observation of the student displaying difficulty in behavior and determining the student's response to attempted remediation. Input from parents is also an information source for identification. After a child is identified as a child with a possible disability, they are evaluated, but not before parents give permission in writing.

The district will follow procedures outlined in the special education regulations (Chapter 14) for determining eligibility and need for special education services. Services designed to meet the needs of eligible students include the annual development of an Individualized Education Program (IEP), bi-annual or tri-annual multidisciplinary re-evaluation, and a full continuum of services, which include Itinerant, Supplemental, or Full-Time levels of support. The extent of services and location for the delivery of services are determined by the IEP team and based on the student's identified needs and abilities. The District also provides related services required for

the student to benefit from the special education program.

Parents who suspect that their child is eligible for special education services may request a multidisciplinary evaluation at any time through a written request to their child's principal or the Director of Special Education.

EARLY INTERVENTION IDENTIFICATION

(55 Pa. Code Chapter 4226)

The Pennsylvania Department of Education is responsible for providing programs and services to eligible young children under Act 212 of 1990, the Early Intervention Services System Act. Young children experiencing developmental delays or physical or mental disabilities and their families are eligible for early intervention services including screening, evaluation, individualized education program planning and provision of appropriate programs and services. Signs of developmental delay or disability include at least a 25% delay in one or more developmental areas:

- Communication or speech
- Cognitive or problem-solving skills
- Physical or motor development
- Adaptive or self-help skills
- Social or emotional growth
- Information regarding the appropriate developmental milestone descriptors for infants and toddlers may be found at the Center for Disease Control (CDC) website (www.cdc.gov).

The Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare is responsible for providing services to infants and toddlers, defined as children from birth through three years of age. For more information, contact:

Alliance for Infants
2801 Custer Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15227
412-885-6000

The Pennsylvania Department of Education is responsible for providing services to preschool children from ages three through five. For information, contact:

Allegheny Intermediate Unit
Preschool Early Intervention Program
475 E. Waterfront Drive
Homestead, PA 15120
412-394-5739

The Brentwood Borough School District ensures that all students transitioning from early intervention programs to kindergarten or first grade programs within the District are transitioned without disruption of services. Parents of children entering school age programs are notified of the District's Transition activities, which occur before kindergarten registration of each year. The District secures permission to evaluate, conducts an evaluation, and develops an Individualized Education Program (IEP) in accordance with the timelines required by state mandates.

SERVICES FOR PROTECTED HANDICAPPED STUDENTS

(22 Pa. Code Chapter 15)

In compliance with state and federal law, the Brentwood Borough School District will provide to each protected handicapped student without discrimination or cost to the student or family, those related aids, services or accommodations which are needed to provide equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits of the school program and extracurricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate to the student's abilities.

In order to qualify as a protected handicapped student, the child must be of school age with a physical or mental disability which substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to an aspect of the school program.

These services and protections for "protected handicapped students" are distinct from those applicable to all eligible or exceptional students enrolled (or seeking enrollment) in special education programs. Protected handicapped students fall under Pennsylvania Chapter 15 of Title 22 of the Regulations of the State Board of Education, sometimes known by its federal name, Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act. In contrast, students with disabilities who qualify for special education services are covered by the regulations contained in Chapter 14.

For further information on the procedures and provisions of services to protected handicapped students, contact your child's school counselor or building principal.

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE MENTALLY GIFTED

(22 Pa. Code Chapter 16)

The definition of giftedness comes from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) Special Education Rules and Regulations under Chapter 16, and states that a student who is mentally

gifted demonstrates outstanding intellectual and creative ability, the development of which requires specially designed programs or support services, or both, not ordinarily provided in the regular education program. In compliance with state law, the Brentwood Borough District provides services designed to meet the unique needs of gifted students and identifies gifted students on a case-by-case basis based on state law and District procedures. Such students may possess superior IQ scores (130 or higher) and meet multiple criteria indicating gifted ability. Gifted ability is not determined by IQ score alone. Additional criteria include but are not limited to indicators of classroom performance and grades, standardized test scores, and teacher ratings. If your child is suspected to be in need of such services through screening procedures, you will be notified of evaluation procedures, and your consent will be requested in writing.

If you believe your school-age child may quality for gifted education services, you may contact, in writing, your child's principal or the Director of Special Education to request determination of eligibility. An evaluation is conducted with parent permission. Please note that entitlement to gifted services includes only those rights provided by Pennsylvania law. The district will follow procedures outlined in the gifted education regulations (Chapter 16) for determining eligibility and need for gifted services.

EDUCATING STUDENTS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) AND ENGLISH LEARNERS (EL)

(22 Pa. Code 4.26)

Every school district shall provide a program for each student whose dominant language is not English for the purpose of facilitating the student's achievement of English proficiency and the academic standards under Pennsylvania law. Programs shall include appropriate bilingual-bicultural or English as a second language (ESL) instruction. English language learners must be enrolled upon presentation of a local address and proof of immunization. The school district must administer a home language survey (HLS) to all students as required by the Office for Civil Rights (OCR). The results of that survey must be retained in the student's permanent file. Parents are notified of their child's English language proficiency level, recommended Language Instruction Educational Program (LIEP), and their rights regarding participation in the program. Parents have the right to decline specialized EL services while their child continues to be assessed annually for English language proficiency until they meet state-established exit criteria.

The Brentwood Borough School District will provide ongoing screening services and is committed to providing meaningful communication with families in a language they can understand and encourages parents of English Learners to actively participate in their child's education. If you wish to learn more, have questions or believe your child may need services, please contact your child's building principal or the Director of Special Education.

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS IN NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS

(Equitable Participation)

Parents of nonpublic school students who suspect that their child has a disability and may need special educations services may request a multidisciplinary evaluation through a written request to the Director of Special Education via fax (412-881-7195) or email (alexandra.rendulic@bb-sd.com).

In order to receive special education services and programs through the Brentwood Borough School District, a student must (1) qualify through the two-pronged evaluation concerning the existence of an exceptionality and a consequent need for specially designed instruction and (2) be enrolled in the school district. Those families who are not enrolled in the Brentwood Borough School District will be supported through a federal regulation referred to as Equitable Participation.

Certain services are available to students identified as eligible for special education who are unilaterally placed by their parents in private schools through a federal requirement called Equitable Participation. In Pennsylvania, the Intermediate Units are the agencies responsible for the implementation of the federal requirement for Equitable Participation.

The final regulations for the reauthorized Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

became effective on October 13, 2006. IDEA and its implementing regulations contain a number of significant changes from the preexisting law and regulations for parentally-placed private school children with disabilities. IDEA now requires that the local educational agency (LEA, Intermediate Units in PA) after consultation with private school representatives, conduct a thorough child find process to determine the number of parentally-placed children with disabilities attending private schools located in the LEA. The LEAs are required to spend a proportionate amount of IDEA Part B funds to provide services to children with disabilities enrolled by their parents in private schools. The Intermediate Units are not required to offer the same services that would be offered as a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the public school.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF STUDENT RECORDS

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act or FERPA (20 U.S.C. §1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a federal law that is administered by the Student Privacy Policy Office (SPPO) in the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA protects "education records," which are generally defined as records that are directly related to a student and maintained by an educational agency or institution, or by a party acting for the agency or institution. FERPA applies to all schools that receive funding under any program administered by the Department of Education.

All information gathered about your child is subject to the confidentiality provisions contained in federal and state law. The District has policies and procedures in effect governing the collection, maintenance, destruction and disclosure to third parties of this information. Your consent, or consent of an eligible child who has reached the age of majority under State law, must be obtained before personally identifiable information is released, except as permitted under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The age of majority in Pennsylvania is 21.

In accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and applicable state and federal regulations, the Brentwood Borough School District maintains special education records related to a student's identification, evaluation, educational placement, and the provision of special education services for seven (7) years after special education services end. Services end when a student is no longer eligible, graduates, reaches age 21, or withdraws from the district. After this seven-year retention period, records will be destroyed after a letter is sent to the former student offering to pick up their educational record. Parents/guardians or eligible adult students who wish to obtain records or have questions about the district's record retention and destruction procedures should contact the District before records are destroyed.

For additional information related to student records, the parent can refer to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

A parent may file a written complaint with the Pennsylvania Department of Education, alleging that the rights described in this notice were not provided.

Pennsylvania Department of Education
Bureau of Special Education
Division of Compliance
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333.

The Department of Education will investigate the matter and issue a report of findings and necessary corrective action within 60 days. The Department will take necessary action to ensure compliance is achieved.

Complaints alleging failures of the school district with regard to confidentiality of personally identifiable information may also be filed with The U. S. Department of Education Family Policy Compliance Office at: https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/file-a-complaint .

This notice is only a summary of the Special Education services, evaluation and screening activities, and rights and protections pertaining to children with disabilities, children thought to be disabled and their parents. For more information or to request evaluation or screening of a public or private school child, contact:

Ali Rendulic, Director of Special Education,
Brentwood Borough SD
412-881-4940 x2216
alexandra.rendulic@bb-sd.com