

Book: Luzerne Intermediate Unit # 18
Section: 900 Community
Title: General Education Provision Act Section 427 Policy Statement
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Authority

In accordance with Section 427 of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA), the Luzerne Intermediate Unit (LIU) is committed to ensuring that all individuals—students, staff, parents, and community members—have equitable access to, and can meaningfully participate in, programs and activities funded by federal grants. The Board recognizes the importance of proactively identifying and addressing barriers to participation for individuals regardless of gender, race, national origin, color, disability, or age.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Executive Director, in collaboration with Program Directors, shall oversee the implementation of this GEPA Section 427 policy. Staff involved in federally funded programs shall receive training to understand their responsibilities in promoting equitable access and participation in all LIU programming.

Guidelines

Commitment to Equity

The Board affirms that the Luzerne Intermediate Unit is an equal opportunity educational service agency and shall uphold all applicable federal and state non-discrimination laws. The Board recognizes that diversity strengthens educational programs and services and is committed to eliminating disparities in access and outcomes across all federally supported initiatives.

Identification of Potential Barriers

The Board acknowledges that various types of barriers may impede participation in federally funded programs, including but not limited to:

- Physical barriers for individuals with disabilities
- Language barriers for English learners and families with limited English proficiency
- Economic barriers, such as lack of access to technology or transportation
- Cultural barriers, including limited outreach to historically underrepresented groups
- Programmatic barriers, such as inflexible scheduling or lack of accommodations

Actions to Address Barriers

To promote equitable participation in federally funded programs, the Board directs the administration to implement the following actions:

- Ensure that all facilities and services are accessible in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Provide translation and interpretation services to support non-English-speaking families
- Offer technology support, including device loans and internet access assistance, as needed
- Provide transportation support for eligible programs where lack of access is a barrier
- Promote inclusive practices through professional development in equity, diversity, and cultural competency
- Communicate program information in accessible, plain language and in multiple formats, where appropriate

Monitoring and Continuous Improvement

The Board shall ensure the effectiveness of these efforts through:

- Collection and analysis of data on participation across demographic groups
- Solicitation of input from stakeholders through surveys, community meetings, and feedback forms
- Periodic review and adjustment of policies and procedures based on stakeholder input and data analysis
- Annual review of this policy, or as required by changes in federal or state law

Legal

1. 20 U.S.C. § 1228a
2. 42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq.
3. 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.
4. 29 U.S.C. § 794
5. 42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq.
6. 42 U.S.C. § 6101 et seq.
7. 20 U.S.C. § 6311 et seq.
8. 24 P.S. § 20-2014-A and related provisions