

# STUDENT SERVICES NEWSLETTER

## SPECIAL EDUCATION AND PUPIL SERVICES



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- **Getting to know your Director of Student Services**
- **Special Education & Available Services/Programs**
- **What can you expect from the Student Services Office**
- **Homeless Assistance Education**



### Greetings and Introductions

Let me start by introducing myself. My name is Kristen Streightiff and I am the Director Student Services (Special Education & Pupil Services) for the Mount Union Area School District.

I have a vast background and in-depth experience in public education, having been an educator for 27 years. My educational background includes a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education (Concentration in Reading) from the Shippensburg University, a Masters of Education in Curriculum and Instruction (Concentration in Literacy and Language Education) from Penn State University, and the Educational Leadership Program for Principal Certification from the Shippensburg University.

I previously served as an educator for the Huntingdon Area School District, having taught grades 1, 2, and 3 at the Elementary Level for 10 years. I have also instructed 6<sup>th</sup> grade subjects of Reading, Social Studies, and ELA at the Huntingdon Area Middle School for 12 years. Prior to coming to MUASD in 2023, I served as the Assistant High School Principal at the Huntingdon Area High School for 2 years. Most recently I served as the MUASD Director of CIA 6-12.

I reside in Huntingdon, with my husband, Chuck, and my two children, Alexis and Aiden.



**Alexis, Chuck, Kristen & Aiden**



**MUASD**

**STUDENT SERVICES NEWSLETTER  
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## **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

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The Mount Union Area School District in partnership with the home and school community is committed to providing for the health, safety, and welfare of all students.

We have adopted a strategic plan that raises the bar for student achievement within a safe learning environment and prepares each child to be successful as global citizens in the 21st Century.

In doing this, it is imperative that any barriers to student learning also be addressed. The Mount Union Area School District is committed to setting high expectations and high supports for all students in the school district receiving special education services.

## **WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM THE OFFICE OF STUDENT SERVICES...**

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Welcome to the Student Services Newsletter!

First and foremost....you can expect honesty.

My goal as the Director of Student Services is the success of your child. That success takes team work: MUASD, STUDENTS, and PARENTS.

I am available to answer your questions concerning Special Education and Pupil Services.

My goal is to keep families, staff, and community members informed about the wide range of supports available to ensure every student's success. From Special Education and Pupil Services to Behavioral Health, ELL, and Gifted programming, we are committed to meeting the unique needs of all learners. You'll also find updates on initiatives such as PBIS, counseling and health services, threat assessment, professional development, and resources like assistive technology and dispute resolution.

Each issue will highlight important reminders, upcoming opportunities, and resources designed to promote equity, inclusion, and student well-being. Together, we can ensure every student is supported in reaching their full potential.

MUASD is working hard so that our students succeed!

## **WHAT PROGRAMS AND/OR SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE?**

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Programs are available in the Mount Union Area School District for students with the following disabilities: Learning Disabled, Autistic, Deafness/Hearing Impairment, Emotional Disturbance, Intellectually Disabled, Multiply Disabled, Orthopedic Impairment, Other Health Impaired, Speech/Language Impaired, Traumatic Brain Injured and Visual Impairment including Blindness. Related services are available to assist a student with a disability including transportation, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Orientation and Mobility and Psychological Services.

A student with a disability, who is in need of specially designed instruction (SDI) within the Mount Union Area School District, is supported by a Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) and an Individualized Education Program (IEP) team. All IEP's are reviewed and/or revised at least once a year. All student programs are reevaluated every three years per state mandates. Those students with a disability of Intellectually Delayed are reevaluated every two years.

Other students with disabilities who do not qualify for supports and services through special education may be provided for as a Protected Handicapped Student under the requirements of section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Chapter 15 of state regulations Title 22. Students with an identifiable disability, which limits or prohibits participation in or access to an aspect of the school program, can be provided with modifications and adaptations through a Chapter 15 Service Agreement.

# Additional Information

## Homeless Assistance Education

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**MUASD**

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## Contact Information

**Director of Student Services  
Homeless Liaison**

**Kristen C. Streightiff, M.Ed.**

**Email:**  
**kstreightiff@muasd.org**

**Office:**  
**706 North Shaver Street  
Mount Union, PA 17066**

**Phone:**  
**(814) 542-2518 ext. 162**

**Appointments can be  
scheduled**



**"WORKING TOGETHER TO  
ACHIEVE STUDENT SUCCESS"**

One of the main goals of the Mount Union Area School District's Homeless Program is to ensure each student experiencing homelessness has a normalized school experience. The Homeless Liaison helps to ensure a child's ability to enroll in school. Further, the Liaison will work with school district personnel to ensure enrollment, transportation, access to academics, food, and materials/supplies do not become barriers that would interrupt their educational experience.

On July 22, 1987, the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act became public law. This was the first comprehensive federal law dealing with the problems of homelessness in America. Included in the 2001 No Child Left Behind Act, the law is now referred to as the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001.

As a first step in 1988, the Pennsylvania Department of Education established the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program. This program has been responsible for assessing Pennsylvania's homeless children population, developing the appropriate responses, and establishing McKinney-Vento Homeless sites.

Some of the main objectives of the Mount Union Area School District are to increase awareness about the needs of children experiencing homelessness, reveal and overcome possible educational barriers, explain current legislation and policies, and provide help/support to families.

The District Homeless Liaison can support and help students experiencing homeless situations in many ways. Mount Union's Homeless Liaison is Mrs. Kristen C. Streightiff, Director of Student Services.

The Liaison may assist families with the following:

- Make sure students are enrolled in school immediately, even if they do not have the papers they would normally need.
- Help families and youth get immunizations, immunization records or other medical records, if a student needs them.
- Tell parents and youth about all transportation services and help set up transportation.
- Make sure students get all the school services they need.
- Tell parents and guardians about all the programs and services the school has for their children.

If you are living in any of the following situations:

- A Shelter
- A Motel
- A vehicle
- Living with others because you can't afford or find housing
- In inadequate conditions (lack of heat, water etc)

We may be able to help you:

- Enroll in school
- Remain in your school if you move to another area
- With transportation to and from school
- Receive free or reduced cost school meals
- Social referrals
- Other services

**Links**  
**Pennsylvania Department of Education**  
**<http://www.education.pa.gov/K-12/Homeless%20Education/Pages/default.aspx#tab-1>**

**The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY)**

**Contact:**  
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