

# About ACCESS

The ACCESS Program serves intermediate units across Pennsylvania. It is a cooperative effort of the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, and the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Through ACCESS, the BCIU Preschool Early Intervention Program can be reimbursed for health-related services provided to students who are eligible for special education. In order for reimbursement to occur, each special needs student must have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), and parents or guardians must complete a Medical Assistance (MA) application.

## Benefits to Your Child

Through parent participation in the ACCESS Program, Early Intervention has the opportunity to develop and provide additional quality services to our students. Each incoming ACCESS dollar strengthens the Early Intervention Program and enhances the support given to the students in our community. Examples of expenses paid with ACCESS funds include the following:

- Speech therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Physical therapy equipment
- Books
- Personal care supplies
- Field trips
- Staff CPR and first-aid training



## How to Apply for MA

To enroll in MA, complete a hard copy of the Health Care Coverage application or go online to [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us). Include a copy of your child's IEP when mailing your application. If you need assistance completing the paperwork, call the Berks County Assistance Office at 610-736-4211 or the BCIU Preschool Early Intervention Program at 610-987-8371.

## Have questions?

If you would like more information, please call us:

**Berks County Intermediate Unit  
Preschool Early Intervention Program  
610-987-8371**



## Medical Assistance

**Having Medical Assistance (MA) will in no way interfere with your personal health insurance.** Applying for MA is completely voluntary.

Information on your application is shared only with Early Intervention staff, a doctor or certified nurse practitioner to determine your child's eligibility, and Public Consulting Group (PDE's contractor for billing purposes).

## BCIU Preschool Early Intervention Program

1111 Commons Boulevard | P.O. Box 16050  
Reading, PA 19612-6050  
Phone: 610-987-8371 | Fax: 610-987-8547  
E-mail: [betste@berksiu.org](mailto:betste@berksiu.org)

## What is Preschool Early Intervention?

Preschool Early Intervention in Pennsylvania consists of services and supports designed to help families with children ages 3 to 5 who have developmental delays. It is a process that promotes collaboration among parents, caregivers, service providers, and others significantly involved with your child. Services help answer your questions about your child's development and enhance your family's capacity to meet the developmental needs of your child in the settings where children would be if they did not have a disability. Early Intervention practitioners work collaboratively with families, caregivers, and educators to help children grow and learn and to prevent the need for more and costly intervention in the future.

BCIU Early Intervention is a public special education service provided to children who are experiencing a delay in development. If a child is eligible, he or she will receive appropriate educational services at no cost, through federal and state funds.

For more information visit us online:  
[www.berksiu.org/ei](http://www.berksiu.org/ei)

**BCIU** Berks County  
Intermediate Unit  
an educational service agency

helping schools excel | helping children learn

1111 Commons Blvd. | P.O. Box 16050  
Reading, PA 19612-6050 | 610-987-2248  
FAX 610-987-8400 | [www.berksiu.org](http://www.berksiu.org)

BCIU\_EI\_Access\_05/14



“My son has struggled with limited food selection for a long time. Our family and other professionals had worked with him for years, but it was the BCIU program that finally showed substantial results. It was this program that was the breakthrough that we were in search of. I am so very thankful that my son had the opportunity to partake of this wonderful Early Intervention service.”

*Michelle Harley-Balliet,  
parent of a child served by the  
BCIU Early Intervention Program*

# ACCESS



increasing funds for  
your child's services

**BCIU** Early Intervention  
A program of the  
an educational service agency Berks County Intermediate Unit