

Child Find and Screening Policy

CHILD FIND AND SCREENING POLICY

Date Adopted:

The CEO, or his/her designee shall ensure that children with disabilities, regardless of the severity of their disabilities, and who are in need of special education and related services, are identified, located, and evaluated and a practical method is developed and implemented to determine which children with disabilities are currently receiving needed special education and related services.

Public Awareness

The CEO, or his/her designee shall ensure that the following public awareness activities occur concerning programs and services for children with disabilities who attend the Charter School:

The Charter School shall publish once annually a written notice, in means accessible to the Charter School families, including, in the School's newsletter, on the Charter School's web site and at the Charter School's main office, a description of child identification activities, of the School's special education services and programs, of the manner in which to request services and programs, and of the procedures followed by the Charter School to ensure the confidentiality of student information pertaining to students with disabilities pursuant to state and federal law;

Outreach Activities

The CEO or his or her designee shall ensure that the following outreach activities occur concerning programs and services for children with disabilities who attend the Charter School:

- Offer parents and family information regarding training activities and publicize the availability of such activities to all parents;
- Provide to interested health and mental health professionals, daycare providers, county agency personnel and other interested professionals, information concerning the types of special education programs and services available in and through the Charter School and information regarding the manner in which parents can access those services.
- Provide or obtain periodic training for the School's regular education staff and special education staff concerning the identification and evaluation of, and provision of special education programs and services to students with disabilities.

Screening

The CEO or his or her designee shall establish a system of screening in order to:

- Identify and provide screening for students prior to referral for an initial special education multidisciplinary team evaluation;
- Provide peer support for teachers and other staff members to assist them in working effectively with students in the general education curriculum;
- Conduct hearing and vision screening in accordance with the Public School Code of 1949 for the purpose of identifying students with hearing or vision difficulty so that they can be referred for assistance or recommended for evaluation for special education if necessary;
- Identify students who may need special education services and programs.

Pre-Evaluation Screening

The pre-evaluation screening process shall include:

- For students with academic concerns, an assessment of the student's functioning in the curriculum including curriculum-based or performance-based assessments;
- For students with behavioral concerns, a systematic observation of the student's behavior in the classroom or area in which the student is displaying difficulty;
- An intervention based on the results of the assessments conducted;
- An assessment of the student's response to the intervention;
- A determination of whether or not the assessed difficulties of the student are the result of a lack of instruction or limited English proficiency;
- A determination of whether or not the student's needs exceed the functional capacity of the regular education program, without special education programs and services, to maintain the student at an instructional level appropriate to the level and pace of instruction provided in that program;
- Activities designed to gain the participation of parents;
- Controls to ensure that if screening activities have produced little or no improvement within the specified timeframe after initiation, the student shall be referred for a multidisciplinary team evaluation.

The screening activities shall not serve as a bar to the right of a parent to request a multidisciplinary team evaluation at any time. When the completion of screening activities prior to referral for a multidisciplinary team evaluation will result in serious mental or physical harm, or significant educational regression, to the student or others, the Charter School may initiate a multidisciplinary team reevaluation without completion of the screening process. Whenever an evaluation is conducted without a pre-evaluation screening, the activities described shall be completed as part of that evaluation whenever possible.

TO THE EXTENT THAT ANYTHING IN THIS POLICY COULD BE CONSTRUED TO CONFLICT WITH APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS, THE APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS CONTROL.