

Philadelphia Electrical and Technology Charter High School
CHILD FIND POLICY

In accordance with Chapter 711 of Title 22 of the Pennsylvania Code, 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. Child find includes children who are suspected of being a child with a disability under Section 300.8 of the federal regulations that implement IDEA 2004 and in need of special education, even though they are advancing from grade to grade; and highly mobile children, including migrant children, wards of the state and parentally placed private students, as appropriate.

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 are applying for enrollment at the Charter School or who attend the charter school:

The Charter School shall publish annually a written notice, in means accessible to the Charter School families, including the school website, www.petchs.org. The Notice must also be made available in means accessible to the public, such as: at the Charter School's main office, in the Charter School's special education office, in a newspaper of general circulation, through local Intermediate Units and/or through other generally accessible print and electronic media, and with the Board meeting minutes 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 (including foster and surrogate parents) information regarding training activities and publicize the availability of such activities to all parents (trainings in the areas of behavior support, response to intervention, inclusive practices, transition, assistive technology, autism, and interagency coordination are important and parents may also be directed to PaTTAN training opportunities). Parent input is to be sought to determine what parent trainings are needed/desired;
- 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.

- The charter school shall conduct child find activities to inform the public of its special education services and programs and the manner in which to request them.
- The charter school's child find effort must include information regarding potential signs of developmental delays and other risk factors that could indicate disabilities.
- Efforts must be made to identify applicants and enrolled students who have a native language other than English and to ensure that notices and other outreach efforts are available to them in their native language as required by law and unless it is clearly and absolutely not feasible to do so.

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.
- Maintain the confidentiality of information in accordance with applicable state and federal regulations.

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 ("FBA" or functional behavior assessment);
- 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.

The Annual Notice of Services for students with Disabilities will be disseminated via:

- School Website - www.petchs.org
- Non Discrimination Policy in Student Handbook
- Publication in local newspaper
- Pamphlets available in main office, front desk and special education office
- Periodic parent newsletters and memos

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