

SYLVAN HEIGHTS SCIENCE CHARTER SCHOOL

Policy title: CHILD FIND AND SCREENING

ADOPTED: 5-20-13

REVISED:

The verification of children with disabilities is one of the most important aspects of both Federal law and state special education regulation. It is important that children who need special education services receive them. The verification process is the means for determining those children who are in need of special education services. The purpose of this policy is to provide assistance to multidisciplinary evaluation teams as they assess each child who is referred for an evaluation to determine if he/she is a child with a disability and in need of special education services.

113.4. CHILD FIND AND SCREENING

Guidelines Public Awareness and Outreach

Title 22, Sec. 14.121, 14.122

The Principal or designee shall ensure that the following public awareness activities occur concerning programs and services for children with disabilities who attend the charter school:

1. Directly or through the intermediate unit, publish once annually a written notice, in a newspaper or other media with circulation adequate to notify parents/guardians throughout the Harrisburg area, of child identification activities, and available special education services and programs, of the manner in which to request services and programs, and of the procedures followed to ensure confidentiality of information pertaining to students with disabilities in accordance with state and federal law. Public awareness activities will include information regarding potential signs of developmental delays and other risk factors that could indicate disabilities.
2. Post conspicuously on the Internet home page of the charter school and in student handbooks the information described in this policy.
3. Display conspicuously in the charter school building the information described in this policy.

Outreach

The Principal or designee shall ensure that the following outreach activities occur concerning programs and services for children with disabilities who attend the charter school: Directly or through the intermediate unit, offer parent/guardian and family training and information activities and publicize the availability of such activities to all parents/guardians.

Directly or through the intermediate unit, provide periodic training to regular and special education staff of the charter school concerning the identification and evaluation of, and provision of special education programs and services to, students with disabilities.

Screening System Title 22 Sec. 14.122

The Principal or designee shall establish a system of screening to accomplish the following, and, whenever practicable, the system thus established shall use existing building-level supports, services, and processes:

1. Assessment at reasonable intervals to determine whether all students are performing based on grade-appropriate standards in core academic subjects.
2. Use of such assessments to provide additional instructional opportunities for students not achieving at the proficient level or otherwise not performing based on grade-appropriate standards in core academic subjects, including but not limited to use of alternate instructional strategies, opportunities for extended learning time, and ongoing assessment of student response.
3. For students who are not performing based on grade-appropriate standards in core academic subjects, a determination that the performance deficit is not the result of a lack of English language proficiency or cultural differences.
4. For students who are not responding to the core program of reading or math instruction, provision of scientifically-based instruction in regular education settings, delivered by qualified personnel, as indicated by observations of routine classroom instruction, with repeated, formal assessments of achievement and progress conducted at reasonable intervals, the results of which shall be provided to the parents/guardians of the student.
5. For students with behavioral concerns, completion of a systematic observation of the student's behavior in the classroom or area in which the student is displaying difficulty and, based thereon, implementation of group or individual positive behavior interventions and strategies, and if necessary, a functional behavior assessment (FBA).
6. Provision of peer support for teachers and other staff members to assist them in working effectively with students in the general education curriculum.
7. Completion of hearing and vision screening in accordance with Section 1402 of Pol. 209 the Public School Code of 1949, 24 P.S. § 14-1402, 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.
8. Identification of students who may need special education services and programs prior to referral for a special education evaluation.

Rights Preserved and Waiver of Pre-Evaluation Screening

The screening activities described in this policy shall not serve as a bar to the right of a parent/guardian 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 Special Education Director may opt to initiate a multidisciplinary team reevaluation without completion of the screening process. Whenever an evaluation is conducted without a pre-evaluation screening, the activities described in this policy shall be completed as part of that evaluation whenever possible.

The School shall comply with requirements of state and federal laws and regulations when conducting evaluations. A student shall be assessed in all areas of suspected disability.

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 1402

State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 14.121, 14.122

Individuals With Disabilities Education Act – 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq.

Individuals With Disabilities Education, Title 34, Code of Federal Regulations – 34 CFR Part 300