

CHILD FIND NOTICE

Services for School-Age Students with Disabilities

Urban Pathways 6-12 Charter School ("Charter School") provides a free, appropriate, public education ("FAPE") to eligible students. To qualify as an eligible student, the child must be of school age, in need of specially-designed instruction, and meet eligibility criteria for one or more physical or mental disabilities as set forth in the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA") and Chapter 711 of the Pennsylvania State Regulations.

The Charter School uses identification procedures to determine eligibility of students and provide an appropriate educational program consisting of special education and related services, individualized to meet student needs at no cost to the parents. To identify students who may be eligible for special education, various screening activities are conducted on an ongoing basis. These screening activities include: review of group-based data (cumulative records, enrollment records, health records, report cards, ability, and achievement test scores); hearing, vision, physical, and speech/language screening; and review of data by applicable Charter School Teams. When screening results suggest that the student may be eligible for special education services, the Charter School seeks written parental consent to conduct a multidisciplinary evaluation because the Charter School cannot conduct an evaluation or provide an initial provision of special education services without this written permission. For additional information related to consent, please refer to the Procedural Safeguards Notice which can be found at the PaTTAN website, www.Pattan.net.

However, Parents who suspect that their child is eligible for special education services may request a multidisciplinary evaluation at any time through a written request to the Principal or Special Education Coordinator. If the parent disagrees with the Evaluation Report, the parent can request an independent education evaluation at public expense.

Once the evaluation process determines eligibility, an IEP Team of Charter School professionals and Parents meet to discuss and determine services to meet the needs of the student and include the annual development of an Individualized Education Program (IEP), biannual or tri-annual multidisciplinary re-evaluation, and a full continuum of services, which include Itinerant, Supplemental, or Full-Time Levels of Intervention. The extent of special education services and the location for the delivery of such services are determined by the IEP team and are based on the student's identified needs and abilities, chronological age, and the level of intensity of the specified intervention. The Charter School also provides related services, such as transportation, speech and language therapy, physical therapy, and occupational therapy, required for the student to benefit from the special education program.

Services for Protected Handicapped Students

In compliance with the state and federal law, namely Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Charter School will provide to protected handicapped students services or accommodations that are needed to provide equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits of the school program and extra-curricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate to the student's abilities. These related services or accommodations are provided without discrimination or cost to the student or family. In order to qualify as a protected handicapped student, the child must be of school age with a physical or mental disability, which substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to an aspect of the school program. Services and safeguards for protected handicapped students are distinct from those applicable to exceptional students enrolled or seeking enrollment in special education programs.

Confidentiality of Student Records

The Charter School protects the confidentiality of personally identifiable information for all students in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"), state law and the Charter School's student records policy.

Parents and eligible students shall be notified annually of their rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. Parents and eligible students have the right to:

- Inspect and review the student's education records;
- Seek amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes to be inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights;
- Consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that the Act and §99.31 authorize disclosure without consent; and
- The procedure to file complaints for non-compliance concerns.

- The parent or eligible student who wishes to file a complaint with regard to compliance of this policy may do so by contacting the Chief Executive Officer/Principal.

- If further appeal is necessary, the parent or eligible student may contact:

  Family Policy Compliance Office
  U.S. Department of Education
  400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
  Washington, D.C. 20202-5920

MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS -TIMING

The following records shall also be maintained as core data for a period of **six (6) years** beyond the school year during which the student to whom such data pertains attains age twenty-one (21).:

a. For students with disabilities, copies of the first and last evaluation reports of the multidisciplinary team, the notice of recommended assignment or educational placement, or similar document by which the parents of the student initially consented to the provision of special education services, and the first and last IEP, last notice of recommended assignment or educational placement, and the summary of performance developed for the student.

b. For students receiving accommodations or modifications to instruction or other activities under a Section 504 service agreement or accommodation plan, copies of the first and last such plan and the notice by which the parents of the student initially consented to the provision of accommodations or modifications.

c. For students evaluated to determine eligibility either for special education services in accordance with state and federal law or for accommodations or modifications in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and who were determined to be ineligible, copies of all evaluation reports supporting the determination of ineligibility and of all notices by which the parents of the student indicated agreement with such determination. 29 U.S.C. Sec. 794

Other Types of Records:

1. Health records shall be maintained for a period of at least **two (2) years** beyond the date on which the student ceases to be enrolled in the Charter School.

2. All other education records shall be maintained as long as the information contained therein remains relevant to the education of the particular student or to the design and provision of educational programs in general or as long as such information remains essential to the protection of the legal interests of the Charter School. The Charter School alone shall determine whether education records remain relevant to education or essential to the protection of legal interests.

Contacts

For additional information regarding any special education or Section 504 issues, please contact the CEO at: Kathleen Garland Urban Pathways 6-12 Charter School 914 Penn Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15222