

**Urban Academy of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School
437 Turrett Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15206**

Board of Trustees Policy

SPECIAL EDUCATION POLICY

The Board of Trustees of the Urban Academy of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School (“Charter School”) recognizes that charter schools must comply with Chapter 711 of Title 22 of the Pennsylvania Code, Charter School Services and Programs for Children with Disabilities.

The Board of Trustees of Charter School also recognizes that charter schools are not exempt from federal special education laws or regulations which include, but are not limited to, enumerated provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (2004) (“IDEA”) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Pursuant to 22 Pa. Code §711.3:

“Charter schools and cyber charter schools assume the duty to ensure that a [free and appropriate public education], FAPE, is available to a child with a disability in compliance with IDEA and its implementing regulations in 34 CFR Part 300 (relating to assistance to states for the education of children with disabilities) and section 504 and its implementing regulations in 34 CFR Part 104 (relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of handicap in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance).”

The Charter School shall ensure that all children with disabilities enrolled in the Charter School, 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.

The Charter School must be able to document that children with disabilities, who are in need of special education programs and services, are identified and evaluated through published Child Find activities in accordance with 22 Pa. Code §711.21, a pertinent portion of which is set forth below:

Each charter school’s or cyber charter school’s written policy must include:

(1) Public awareness activities sufficient to inform parents of children applying to or enrolled in the charter school or cyber charter school of available special education services and programs and how to request those services and programs. Written information shall be published in the charter school or cyber charter school handbook and web site.

(2) Systematic screening activities that lead to the identification, location and evaluation of children with disabilities enrolled in the charter school or cyber charter school.

Basic screening procedures might include, but are not limited to, hearing and vision tests as well as grade level tests of academic performance.

The Charter School must also have a system to evaluate the overall success and effectiveness of public awareness and Child Find activities.

The Charter School recognizes that:

- Children with disabilities must be admitted on the same basis as children without disabilities.
- Upon admitting a child with a disability, the Charter School must provide services to address the child's specific needs.
- When a student with a disability transfers to the Charter School, the Charter School is responsible for ensuring that the student receives services that are described in an Individualized Education Program (IEP), either by adopting the old IEP or by developing a new IEP within the timelines set forth in 22 Pa. Code §711.41.
- The Charter School will use the most current and appropriate versions of Special Education Formats.
- To meet the requirements of federal law, the Charter School may provide the services itself, or contract with another entity, such as an intermediate unit or a private licensed entity or individual to provide the services, respecting the least restrictive environment requirements and all required criminal and child abuse clearance requirements.

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.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2015

President

Secretary