

Catalyst Academy Charter School
Board of Trustees Policy
Child Find Policy

In accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities and Education Act and Chapter 711 of Title 22 of the Pennsylvania State Board of Education (22 Pa Code, §711.21, §711.23, and §711.24) the Board of Trustees of Catalyst Academy Charter School describe the child find activities of the charter school for the purpose of locating, identifying, and evaluating children with disabilities. The Principal or their designee shall ensure that children with disabilities, regardless of the severity of their disabilities, and who are enrolled at the charter school and are in need of special education and related services are identified, located, and evaluated.

Child Find includes children who are suspected of having 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, homeless youth, and parentally placed private students) as appropriate.

Section 300.111 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) states the following parameters:

- *“All children with disabilities residing in the State, including children with disabilities who are homeless children or are wards of the State, and children with disabilities attending private schools, regardless of the severity of their disability, 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 are currently receiving needed special education and related services.*
- *Other children in Child Find also must include—*
 - *Children who are suspected of being a child with a disability under §300.8 and in need of special education, even though they are advancing from grade to grade; and*
 - *Highly mobile children, including migrant children.”*

Catalyst Academy Charter School has adopted procedures with which to identify scholars who present with academic and/or social-emotional performance that might require supplementary aids and services through special education and related services.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

The Principal or their designee shall ensure that the following public awareness activities occur concerning programs and services for children with disabilities who are enrolled at Catalyst Academy Charter School:

1. Publish once annually a written notice in means accessible to Catalyst Academy Charter School families to notify parents/guardians of child identification activities, of special education services and programs, of the manner in which to request services and programs, of the manner in which to request services and programs, of the procedures followed to ensure confidentiality of student information pertaining to students with disabilities in accordance with state and federal law.
2. The notice may be available in means accessible to the public, such as: in the main office at Catalyst Academy Charter School, in the special education office at Catalyst Academy Charter School, printed in pamphlets containing the information described in this policy, through generally accessible print and electronic media, and/or with the Board meeting minutes.
3. The principal or their designee shall ensure that the following outreach activities occur concerning programs and services for children with disabilities who attend the Charter School:
 - a. Offer parent and family training and information activities and publicize the availability of such activities to all parents/guardians.
 - b. Directly provide to physicians, hospitals, mental health professionals, daycare providers, and county agency personnel training or other information concerning the types of special education programs and services available in and through the Charter School and the manner in which parents/guardians can access those services.
 - c. Directly provide periodic training to all staff of the Charter School concerning the identification and evaluation of, and provision of special education programs and services to, students with disabilities.
 - d. The public outreach awareness system utilized by Catalyst Academy Charter School shall include methods for reaching homeless children, wards of the state, children with disabilities attending private schools, and highly mobile children, including migrant children.
 - e. Catalyst Academy's child find effort must include information regarding potential signs of developmental delays and other risk factors that could indicate disabilities.
 - f. Efforts must be made to identify 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.

SCREENING

As in accordance with 22 Pa. Code §711.23(d), the principal and their designee shall ensure that screening activities occur at regular intervals to locate and identify students who are thought to be eligible for special education and related services and that information is published or announced in media, with circulation adequate to notify parents/guardians throughout the area of child identification activities and of the procedures followed to ensure confidentiality of information pertaining to eligible students.



Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) is a framework that Catalyst Academy Charter School uses to provide individualized, targeted support to scholars who struggle to grasp threads of literacy, math, and/or social and emotional learning.

The Catalyst Academy Charter School MTSS framework represents three indicators of support alongside a continuum of scholars, with each tier providing a specific amount and type of support for scholars:

- Universal supports for all scholars;
- Secondary supports for some scholars;
- Intensified support for few scholars

An interdisciplinary team of staff review MTSS referrals made by faculty and outline intervention plans for specific skill sets scholars may require review, remediation, or reteaching.

Should the intervention plan(s) implemented prove to be unsuccessful after a reasonable amount of time and adjustments to the intervention plan, staff may consider that the scholar in question is a scholar with an exceptionality (i.e. recommend a psychoeducational evaluation by a school psychologist).

EVALUATION

Screening or pre referral intervention activities may not serve as a bar to the right of a parent to request an evaluation, at any time, including prior to or during the conduct of the screening process. Evaluation processes are in accordance with 22 Pa. Code §711.24(a) relating to the determination of eligibility (34 CFR 300.306) and section (b) relating to initial evaluations (34 CFR 300.301).

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, Catalyst Academy Charter School may initiate a multidisciplinary team evaluation without the completion of the screening process in accordance with Chapter 711. Whenever an evaluation is conducted without a pre evaluation screening, the activities described shall be completed as part of the evaluation whenever possible.

RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

The following staff members at Catalyst Academy Charter School must consider the following responsibilities within their under in the scope of this Child Find policy:

<i>Title</i>	<i>Responsibility under Child Find</i>
Local Education Agency (LEA) representative <i>(Principal, Director of Inclusive Learning)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Create and maintain regular data reviews with classroom teams to monitor scholar growth; ➤ Communicate concerns regarding growth with scholar’s family; ➤ Issue a Permission to Evaluate (PTE) should the LEA representative determine

	<p>the scholar might have a disability that is a barrier to the scholar’s access of an appropriate, least restrictive education;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Comply with state and federal regulations regarding evaluation protocols
<p>Classroom teacher <i>(Grade Level, Talent, Inclusive Learning)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Collect universal screening, progress monitoring, and local assessment data for each scholar for whom the individual serves as the teacher of record; ➤ Engage in regular data reviews with the LEA representative to monitor scholar growth; ➤ Communicate concerns regarding growth with scholar’s family; ➤ Participate in the evaluation process as determined by the LEA representative

Catalyst Academy Charter School has a duty to locate, identify, and provide services to scholars who have an exceptionality and may need special education and related services.

If a Catalyst Academy Charter School staff member is aware of or has reason to suspect that a scholar has an exceptionality, these staff members are obligated to act on the scholar’s behalf.

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. THIS POLICY IS NOT INTENDED TO CONFLICT WITH CHARTER REQUIREMENTS.

Adopted this 05th day of March 2024



PRESIDENT

SECRETARY