



## **Special Education Policy**

**August 21, 2014**

---

The Collegium Charter School Board of Trustees recognizes that charter schools are bound by Chapter 711 of Pennsylvania's Regulations, Charter School Services and Programs for Children with Disabilities.

The Collegium Charter School Board of Trustees also recognizes that charter schools must comply with federal regulations, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendment Act. In accordance with PA Charter School Law, Collegium does not provide gifted education evaluations or services (Chapter 16).

According to IDEA, schools shall ensure that all children with disabilities residing in PA, regardless of the severity of their disabilities, and who are in need of special education and related services, are identified, located, and evaluated. A practical method is developed and implemented to determine which children with disabilities are currently receiving needed special education and related services.

Collegium Charter School (CCS) will document that children with disabilities, who are in need of special education programs and services, are identified and evaluated through Child Find activities. Child Find includes public awareness activities that are sufficient to inform parents of the special education programs and services that are available and how to request those services.

CCS will conduct systematic screening activities that lead to the identification and evaluation of children with disabilities. Basic screening procedures might include but are not limited to hearing and vision tests as well as grade level tests of academic performance.

CCS will also have a system to evaluate the overall success and effectiveness of public awareness and Child Find activities. Such a system might include, but not be limited to, a community survey and publication of the Annual Notice of Special Education.

CCS recognizes that:

- Children with disabilities must be enrolled on the same basis as children without disabilities.
- Upon enrolling a child with a disability, CCS will provide services to address the child's specific needs.
- When a student with a disability transfers to CCS, the 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.

- CCS will use the most current and appropriate versions of School-Age Special Education Documents.
- To meet the requirements of federal law, CCS may provide the services itself or contract with another entity such as an intermediate unit, private agency, or school district to provide the services.