ANNUAL PUBLIC NOTICE (CHILD FIND)

PEOPLE FOR PEOPLE CHARTER SCHOOL (PFPCS)

800 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19130 | (215) 763-7060 | www.pfpcs.org

NOTICE TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

People For People Charter School (PFPCS) provides special education and related services to eligible students with disabilities in kindergarten through eighth grade at no cost to families. PFPCS maintains ongoing Child Find activities to identify, locate, and evaluate students enrolled at the school who may need special education and related services. Parents and guardians of students enrolled in or applying to PFPCS may request information about available programs and the evaluation process. This notice is available in the school handbook and on the school website.

WHO MAY BE ELIGIBLE

A student may be eligible for special education if the student meets the applicable criteria for a disability and, because of that disability, requires specially designed instruction. Disability categories include autism; deaf-blindness; deafness or hearing impairment; emotional disturbance; intellectual disability; multiple disabilities; orthopedic impairment; other health impairment; specific learning disability; speech or language impairment; traumatic brain injury; and blindness or visual impairment. Students who do not qualify for special education may nevertheless be eligible for protections and services under Section 504.

AVAILABLE SERVICES

Depending on individual needs and eligibility, services may include specially designed instruction, speech-language services, occupational or physical therapy, counseling or psychological services, assistive technology, and transportation, as appropriate. Services are determined through applicable evaluation and individualized planning procedures and delivered in the least restrictive environment consistent with each student's needs.

IDENTIFICATION AND REFERRAL

PFPCS conducts systematic screening and reviews relevant academic, behavioral, health-screening, attendance, and other educational information to identify students who may need evaluation. Child Find includes students who are passing courses, advancing from grade to grade, experiencing homelessness, living in foster care, or otherwise highly mobile. Multi-tiered supports or interventions do not delay a referral or evaluation when a disability is suspected. Parents may request an evaluation at any time. Under Pennsylvania law, an evaluation request must be in writing; if a parent makes an oral request to a school professional or administrator, PFPCS will provide a Permission to Evaluate form within 10 calendar days.

EVALUATION, CONSENT, AND TIMELINES

PFPCS seeks required informed parental consent before an initial special education evaluation and before the initial provision of special education services. Evaluations use a variety of appropriate measures, are nondiscriminatory, and are conducted in the student's native language or other mode of communication unless clearly not feasible. An initial evaluation and report are completed within 60 calendar days after receipt of written parental consent, excluding the period between the last day of the spring school term and the day before the following fall term begins, as provided in 22 Pa. Code § 711.24. The evaluation report is provided to the parent at least 10 school days before the IEP team meeting unless the parent waives this interval in writing. Eligibility and, if appropriate, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) are determined through the legally required team process.

PARENT RIGHTS AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Parents have procedural rights, including access to education records, prior written notice when required, participation in educational decisions, and access to mediation, due process, and state complaint procedures. A parent who disagrees with an evaluation may request an independent educational evaluation at public expense, subject to applicable IDEA procedures. PFPCS provides the Procedural Safeguards Notice at least once each school year and at other times required by law, including upon an initial referral or parental request for evaluation and upon request. Student records are protected under FERPA and IDEA and are accessed or disclosed only as permitted by law.

CONTACT INFORMATION

To discuss concerns, request a Permission to Evaluate form, seek an evaluation, request interpretation or translation, or obtain the Procedural Safeguards Notice, contact the Special Education Coordinator or Special Education Compliance Coordinator through PFPCS at (215) 763-7060. The Special Education Compliance Coordinator may also be contacted at zrodriguez@pfpcs.org. Families may contact the Pennsylvania Bureau of Special Education ConsultLine at 1-800-879-2301 for information about special education rights and procedures.

PUBLIC AVAILABILITY

PFPCS makes this notice and information about available special education programs accessible to families through the school handbook and website, and through other appropriate outreach channels. The notice is maintained as standing public information and reviewed as needed to reflect changes in law, services, or contact information.