



# Renaissance Academy

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## Child Find and Screening Policy

### 1 GUIDELINES

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#### PUBLIC AWARENESS

The CEO or designee of Renaissance Academy Charter School (“RACS” or “Charter School”), shall ensure that the following public awareness activities occur concerning programs and services for students with disabilities who attend RACS:

1. Directly or through the Chester County Intermediate Unit, publish once annually a written notice, in a newspaper or other media with circulation adequate to notify parents/guardians throughout the school districts served, of child identification activities, of RACS and other public special education services and programs, of the manner in which to request services and programs, and of the procedures followed to ensure confidentiality of information pertaining to students with disabilities in accordance with state and federal law.
2. Post conspicuously on the Internet home page of the Charter School, or a page linked thereto, the information described above.
3. Display conspicuously in each school building, in the school printed circulars or handbooks containing the information described above.

#### OUTREACH

The CEO or designee shall ensure that the following outreach activities occur concerning programs and services for students with disabilities who attend the Charter School:

1. Directly or through agencies including but not limited to Intermediate Units to, offer parent/ guardian and family training and information activities and publicize the availability of such activities to all parents/guardians.
2. Directly or through agencies including but not limited to Intermediate Units, provide periodic training to regular education staff of the Charter School concerning the identification and evaluation of, and provision of special education programs and services to students with disabilities.

3. Directly or through agencies including but not limited to Intermediate Units, provide periodic training to staff of the Charter school concerning the awareness and identification of homeless children, wards of the state, children with disabilities attending private schools, and highly mobile children, including migrant children.
4. Directly or through agencies including but not limited to Intermediate Units, provide notice and information to parents/guardians/families whose child(ren) may be, homeless, wards of the state, children with disabilities attending private schools, and highly mobile children, including migrant children.

## **SCREENING**

- 1) **Screening System** - The LEA or designee shall establish a system of screening to accomplish the following, and, whenever practicable, the system thus established shall use existing building-level supports, services, and processes to:
  - a) Use the MTSS process to Identify and provide initial screening for students prior to referral for an initial special education multidisciplinary team evaluation.
  - b) Provide peer support for teachers and other staff members to assist them in working effectively with students in the general education curriculum through the prescribed PD rotation.
  - c) Hearing and vision screening in accordance with section 1402 of the Public School Code of 1949 (24 P.S. § 14-1402) for the purpose of identifying students with hearing or vision difficulty so that they can be referred for assistance or recommended for evaluation for special education.
- 2) **Pre-evaluation Screening** - The pre-evaluation screening process described above shall include the following intervention services:
  - A verification that the student was provided with appropriate instruction in reading, including the essential components of reading instruction (as defined in section 1208(3) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) (20 U.S.C.A. § 6368(3)), and appropriate instruction in math.
  - For students with academic concerns, an assessment of the student's performance in relation to State-approved grade level standards.
  - For students with academic concerns, an assessment of the student's functioning in the curriculum including curriculum-based or performance based assessment.
  - For students with behavioral concerns, a systematic observation of the student's behavior in the classroom or area in which the student is displaying difficulty.
  - a) A research-based intervention based on the results of the assessments conducted above.
  - b) An assessment of the student's response to the intervention.
  - c) A determination of whether or not the assessed difficulties of the student are the result of a lack of instruction or limited English proficiency.
  - d) A determination of whether or not the student's needs exceed the functional capacity of the regular education program, without special education programs and services, to maintain the student at an instructional level appropriate to the level and pace of instruction provided in that program.

- e) Activities designed to gain the participation of parents/guardians including documentation to demonstrate that reports of progress were periodically provided to student's parent(s).
  - f) Controls to ensure that if screening activities have produced little or no improvement within sixty (40) school days after initiation, the student shall be referred for a multidisciplinary team evaluation.
    - i) Screening at reasonable intervals to determine whether all students are performing based on grade-appropriate standards in core academic subjects.
- 3) **Rights Preserved and Waiver of Pre-Evaluation Screening** - The screening activities described in this policy shall not serve as a bar to the right of a parent/guardian to request a multidisciplinary team evaluation at any time. 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, the Charter School will initiate a multidisciplinary team evaluation without completion of the screening process. Whenever an evaluation is conducted without a pre-evaluation screening, the activities described in this policy shall be completed as part of that evaluation whenever possible.

Title 22 §§ 711.21-23;34 CFR §§300.125, 300.451; 24 P.S.§1402

ADOPTED this day 20th of May, 2021

President: Daniel Rufo (signature on file)

Secretary: Monica Reynolds (signature on file)