

YB Child Find Policy

As a public school, YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School is required by the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA) to provide a free and appropriate public education to all students, including those students with disabilities who need special education and related services.

- Students are eligible for special education services if they are found to have one or more of the following disabilities that interfere with their educational performance: (1) autism/ pervasive developmental disorder, (2) deaf-blindness, (3) deafness, (4) emotional disturbance, (5) hearing impairment, (6) intellectual disabilities, (7) multiple disabilities, (8) orthopedic impairment, (9) other health impairment (includes ADD, ADHD, epilepsy, etc.), (10) specific learning disability, (11) speech or language impairment, (12) traumatic brain injury, and/or (13) visual impairment including blindness.
- Some potential signs of having a disability include experiencing years of difficulties in: reading, writing or solving math problems, focusing and concentrating on schoolwork, sitting still in the classroom, controlling emotions (such as anxiety and depression) and behaviors, etc.
- Through an established screening process, YouthBuild identifies and then evaluates students who are believed to be eligible for special education services or outside mental health support. This screening process includes initial admissions academic placement tests in reading and math, review of current classroom performance and attendance, and the comprehensive Intervention and Referral System (I&RS) facilitated by our Student Intervention Team. When our screening process indicates that a student may be eligible for services, YouthBuild has to obtain written permission before we can legally conduct an evaluation. Parents may request, at any time, that YouthBuild conduct an evaluation. Requests should be made in writing to our Director of Specialized Services. "Request for Evaluation" forms are also available from our Director of Specialized Services.
- If you have had a lot of difficulty in school over the years and you think that you may have one or more of these conditions, you should contact our Director of Specialized Services. She will review the process for a special-education evaluation to determine if you are eligible for an evaluation to determine eligibility for special-education and related services.
- After we conduct a comprehensive evaluation of a student, an Evaluation Team is formed to review the evaluation report and determine if the student is eligible for special-education and related services. This Team consists of the student, his/her parent/guardian, the student's teachers, the student's Advisor, the School Psychologist, any related services, and our Director of Specialized Services.
- If the Evaluation Team determines that the student is eligible for special-education and related services, then that Evaluation Team becomes the student's IEP Team and writes a detailed plan for supporting the student over the coming year so that he or she can be successful in school—and then later in life. This plan is called an Individualized Education Plan—or, an IEP—and is different for each student.