
Charter Schools and Children With Disabilities

FAQs for Parents

Can a charter school refuse to take my child because he has a disability?

No. Charter schools are public schools. They cannot refuse to educate a child because of disabilities. If your child has a disability that affects her ability to learn, make sure the school knows about it. Ask for a special education evaluation in writing if your child needs supports at school because of a disability.

Can a charter school tell me to remove my child because they don't have someone who can give the services required in my child's IEP?

No. Public schools must give a child with a disability all special education or other services required by an IEP or other special education plan. Charter schools, just like a district-run school, must serve children with disabilities.

Can a charter school make me pay for special education or related services?

No. Children in the United States have a right to free public education. Charter schools are public schools.

My child with a disability has behavior problems. Can his charter school kick him out?

Just like a district-run school, a charter school must work with your child and you to see if a behavior problem is caused by or related to a disability. If your child needs services that the school is not giving, you can ask for amendment of the IEP or a change in the school's special education plan. If your child is suspended, you can appeal and have a hearing. If you don't appeal, the school may use your child's behavior history to expel him later. You can appeal an expulsion, too. Look for help on www.louisianalawhelp.org if your child is being punished unfairly, and you can't work it out.

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