

Children with Special Needs and Public Charter Schools

Have you considered a public charter school for your child?

ABOUT CHARTERS

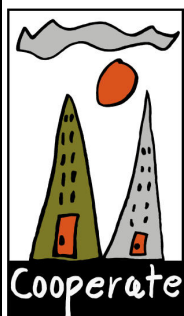
- Charter schools are free public schools, open to any child living in DC.
- All charters must provide services for students with disabilities.
- Charter schools cannot refuse to enroll a student because he/she has an IEP or disability.

CHOOSING A CHARTER

- Many charter schools have unique programs that may be a good fit for your child. For example, some focus on: the arts, some instruction in another language, others on technology. Most charters use an inclusion model for meeting students' special needs.
- Call schools and ask about their programs. Consider your child's interests and strengths and how they fit with the school's model.
- Attend open houses where you can meet teachers and visit classrooms.

HOW TO ENROLL

- Contact the school and ask for an application. The application deadlines for most charter schools are in March or April.
- If a charter school has more applicants than spaces, it is required to hold a lottery.
- Once your child has been offered a space at the school, share copies of his or her IEP and evaluation reports. *The school cannot require this information until you have been offered a space.*



The DC Special Education Co-operative helps DC charter schools develop high quality special education programs. For more information about special education and charter schools, visit our website: www.specialedcoop.org

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