

September 13, 2023

Dear School District of Philadelphia Families,

The School District of Philadelphia (SDP) is writing to communicate an important policy change made by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) that will provide continued education services to special education students. This policy change will provide students access to a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), as they are entitled to under federal law.

Effective September 5, 2023, all students entitled to FAPE, and all students who are entitled to the rights and procedural safeguards under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Chapter 14 of Title 22 of the Pennsylvania Code, may remain enrolled in public school until they turn 22 years of age. This includes students who turned 21 and exited during or after the 2022-2023 school year.

If you are receiving this message, your child is eligible (but not required) to re-enroll or remain enrolled in a School District of Philadelphia school until their 22nd birthday. For example, if a student turns 22 on December 1, 2023, their last day of enrollment in the District is November 30, 2023.

What is the process for re-enrolling your child?

- Parents/Guardians should enroll their child at the last school that the child attended.
- Due to evolving space and capacity at schools, the District cannot guarantee that your student will be placed at the school where they were last enrolled. If there is no space available at the school where a child was most recently enrolled, the Principal (or designee) will reach out to the Network Special Education Director to find an alternative placement for the student.
- Parents/Guardians should expect to receive confirmation of enrollment within forty-eight hours.

For more detailed information about this policy change, and to read the official memo from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, please visit the [Office of Diverse Learners website](#). If you have any questions/concerns please feel free to contact the Office of Special Education and Diverse Learners at (215) 400-4170.

Sincerely,

Sonya Berry, Interim Chief
The School District of Philadelphia
Office of Special Education & Diverse Learners