

DO YOU KNOW A CHILD WHO MAY HAVE A DISABILITY?



SPECIAL EDUCATION

What is Child Find?

The purpose of Child Find is to identify, locate, and evaluate children and youth ages 3 to 22 years of age who are suspected of having or who have a diagnosed disability or developmental delay, in order to provide appropriate special education services under the law.

When Should a Child be Referred to Child Find?

A child should be referred when:

- A health or medical disorder interferes with development and/or learning
- A child seems to have difficulty seeing or hearing
- A child appears to have social, emotional, or behavioral difficulties that affect his/her ability to learn or interact with others.
- A child has a diagnosed progressive or degenerative condition that will eventually impair or impede the child's ability to learn
- A child seems to have difficulty understanding directions like others that are his/her age
- A child's speech is not understood
- A child appears to have learning difficulties in reading, writing, math

What is Special Education?

Special Education is instruction designed to meet the unique learning strengths and needs of the individual student with disabilities from ages 3 to 22 years of age. It is defined as:

- Specially designed instruction
- At no cost to parents
- To meet the unique needs of a child with a disability

Special education services may be provided in a variety of educational settings, but are required to be delivered in the least restrictive environment (LRE).

Who is Eligible for Services?

A student must be evaluated by a school-based team and identified as having a disability to be eligible for special education programs and related services. The degree of the student's impairment must require special education.

How Can Children Be Referred?

A referral may be made by a parent or by any person concerned about the child. Parental involvement and consent is obtained prior to any action. Information is confidential and the privacy of children and parents is protected. Call your school for more information if your child is between the ages of 3 and 22 years.