

Child Find Duty Quick Guide

What is Child Find?



Child Find is the affirmative and ongoing process of public awareness, coordination with agencies and primary sources, and screening procedures to **locate**, **identify**, and **evaluate** all children with disabilities from birth through age 21 who may require early intervention or special education services. This process includes children who are:

Enrolled in a public school and advancing from grade to grade

Parentally placed in a private school, homeschool, or attend a virtual school

Highly mobile, including migrant children

Homeless

In foster care or unaccompanied youth

Wards of the state

Involved in the criminal justice system

Residing in nursing homes

What are the local education agency's (LEA) responsibilities?



Develop written local policies and operating procedures



Engage in public and parent/guardian awareness activities, including partnering with primary referral sources



Notify parents by providing the Right to Information Statement annually



Conduct school-wide screenings



Ensure appropriate and timely referrals for evaluation



Coordinate with other agencies, including Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)



Maintain and report accurate data



Provide training and professional development to all staff

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Key Points to Remember



Child Find is not a passive process. LEAs should not wait for others to refer students for special education services. LEAs must seek out Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) eligible students.



A public awareness campaign should target a wide variety of people who may work with the student, such as parents/families, daycares, summer camps, physicians and medical clinics, and religious institutions.



Referrals for an initial evaluation should not be delayed or denied because pre-referral interventions have not been implemented with a student. **If there is a basis to suspect a student has a disability and needs special education and related services based on this disability, the student must be referred for an evaluation.**



Parents must be notified annually of the options and requirements for assisting students who may need special education services. The notice includes the rights of a child and the general process available to initiate a referral for a full individual and initial evaluation to determine the child's eligibility for special education services.



Coordination with other agencies, such as Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) is essential, particularly for children from birth to three years of age.

Legal Resources	State Resources
<p>The Legal Framework for the Child-Centered Special Education Process: Child Find Duty</p> <p>The Legal Framework for the Child-Centered Special Education Process: Ages 0-5</p> <p>The Legal Framework for the Child-Centered Special Education Process: Children in Private Schools</p>	<p>Child Find, Evaluation and ARD Supports Network</p> <p>TEA Technical Assistance: Child Find and Evaluation</p>