

CHILD FIND BASICS

Each state is required by IDEA to identify, locate, and evaluate all children with disabilities in the state who need special education and related services. To do so, states require each LEA/district to conduct what are known as Child Find activities. Such activities may include:

- The use of a “Child Find Notice Letter” Include targeted questions regarding areas of need and/or previous Special Education services in enrollment packets.
- Carefully screen the files and enrollment documentation of all children transferring into the LEA/district to identify children who may have been receiving special services in their prior LEA/district.
- Provide information to parents that explains the LEA’s/district’s special services and who to contact if they suspect their child may have a disability.
- Utilize a clear parent and teacher referral system (i.e. Student Study Team process).
- Provide annual in-service activities to assist teachers in making appropriate referrals.
- Screen all children entering kindergarten to identify children with suspected disabilities.
- Review files of all students with a health plan to screen for suspected disabilities.
- Publish a child find notice in the LEA/district newsletter or website.
- Send Child Find notices to community agencies in conjunction with preschool screening activities.

Additionally, a LEA/district may be violating its Child Find duty by repeatedly referring a student for interventions rather than evaluating the student’s need for special education and related services.