

Notice of Parents' Access to Child Find

Your local school district is required by federal law to locate, identify and evaluate all resident children with disabilities. **This includes children who attend private schools.** This process is called Child Find.

As a private school parent, you have the right to request an evaluation of your child. Physicians, nurses, psychologists, social workers and administrators of social agencies can refer a child to the district for testing.

Private school staff do not have any rights under federal law related to Child Find, but in some cases can referral a child to the district for evaluation. The child's parents are still required to consent to an evaluation and retain rights related to the evaluation process and identification of a child as a child with a disability.

Here is a part of what the U.S. Department of Education requires school districts to publicly publish annually:

Notice of Child Find Activity

The school district must locate, identify and evaluate all resident children with disabilities, including children with disabilities attending private schools, regardless of the severity of their disabilities. The school district has a special education screening program to locate and screen all children with suspected disabilities who are residents of the district and who have not graduated from high school. Upon request the school district will screen any resident child who has not graduated high school to determine whether a special education referral is appropriate.

Annually the district conducts developmental screening of preschool children. Participating children's motor communications, and social skills are observed. Children's hearing and vision is checked. The information is used to provide suggestions for follow-up activities. Parents learn about community services available to them. The information from screening is also used to determine whether a child should be evaluated for a suspected disability. When school staff reasonably believe a child is a child with a disability, they refer the child for evaluation by a school district Individualized Education Program (IEP) team.

A physician, nurse, psychologist, social worker or administrator of a social agency who reasonably believes a child brought to him or her for services is a child with a disability has a legal duty to report the child to the school district in which the child resides. Before referring the child, the person making the referral must inform the child's parent that the referral will be made. The referral must be in writing and include the reason why the person believes the child is a child with a disability. Others who reasonably believe a child is a child with a disability may also refer the child to the school district in which the child resides.

Any questions regarding Child Find should be directed to the district's special education team. They will be able to provide information about referrals and requests for evaluation.

Child Find is separate from the state-funded Special Needs Scholarship Program (SNSP). SNSP is funded by Wisconsin and requires a federally-funded Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or services plan from the district.