

Child Find



Definition

All children with disabilities residing in the State, including children with disabilities attending private schools, regardless of the severity of their disability who are in need of special education and related services are identified, located, and evaluated. The collection and use of data to meet the requirements of Child Find will be subject to the confidentiality requirements.

Child Find requirements apply to:

- √ Highly mobile children with disabilities (such as migrant and homeless children) and;
- √ Children who are suspected of having a disability and may be in need of special education, even though they are advancing from grade to grade.

The expected outcome is that all children with disabilities who are in need of special education and related services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) are identified, located, and evaluated.

Procedures for Statewide Implementation

Each year the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) publicizes that the State is providing educational opportunities to children with disabilities and that parents or other interested individuals should refer a child who may have a disability to local school authorities. This can be done by:

- √ Publicizing child identification information via the MDE's web-site;
- √ Providing brochures to regional and local offices of State agencies and non-profit social services agencies regarding child identification;
- √ Providing brochures to locations that serve populations of highly mobile children; and
- √ Maintaining a Child Find referral system to forward information to local school districts.

