

Child Find Policy

Purpose

In accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Ohio Operating Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities (OAC 3301-51), it is the School's policy to assist the State of Ohio in identifying, locating, and evaluating all children who may have disabilities that may be hindering their ability to receive Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). The School is committed to affording all children their right to a free and appropriate education, regardless of any disability a child may have. This includes:

- Homeless children or wards of the State
- Highly mobile children, including migrant children
- Children who are advancing from grade to grade
- Children with disabilities attending nonpublic schools, regardless of the severity of their disability.

The School aims to identify disabilities such as autism, deaf-blindness, hearing impairment, including deafness, mental retardation, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, traumatic brain injury, and/or visual impairment including blindness.

Referral and Evaluation Procedures

The School encourages parents, guardians, relatives, public and private agency employees, and concerned citizens to help schools find any child, birth through age 21, who may have a disability and needs special education and related services. The School will contact the parents or guardians of the child to find out if the child needs to be evaluated. Free testing is available to families to determine whether or not a special need exists. If a need is identified, the child can begin receiving special education and related services.

A referral for special education evaluation may be made by a parent, school personnel, or any concerned party who suspects a child may have a disability. Upon receipt of a referral, the School will follow timelines and procedures consistent with the Operating Standards (OAC 3301-51-06), including either obtaining parental consent for an initial evaluation or providing prior written notice to the parents that the School does not suspect a disability and will not be conducting an evaluation. One of these actions must be completed within thirty (30) days of the School receiving a request for an evaluation.

Data reporting

Pursuant to OAC 3301-51-01 (C), the School will annually report to ODEW data related to its child find practices related to disproportionality with regard to race and ethnicity, including data about the identification of such students as students with disabilities, the educational placement of such children and the rates of disciplinary action.