



Ann Jerkins-Harris Academy of Excellence

Child Find Policy

School Year: 2025–2026

Adopted by Governing Authority: October 2, 2025

What Is Child Find?

Child Find is the process of identifying, locating, and evaluating children with disabilities who may need special education or related services. This includes all children from birth through age 21 within the school's jurisdiction, including public, private, and home-based education.

Why Child Find Exists

Federal and state laws require schools to conduct Child Find activities to ensure every child who needs special services is identified and supported.

Purpose

The purpose of Child Find is to: promote public awareness of disabilities; alert parents, professionals, and the community to children with special needs; assist districts in identifying students who have not been referred; and enable children and families to access special education and related services early.

Definition of Disability

Birth–3: A developmental delay or condition known to cause delay. **Ages 3–5:** A deficit in communication, vision, hearing, motor, social-emotional, self-help, or cognitive skills. **Ages 5–21:** Autism, deaf-blindness, intellectual or multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, emotional disturbance, specific learning disability, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury, or visual impairment including blindness.

What Happens Next?

When a possible need is identified, the school contacts parents to determine if evaluation is needed. Evaluations are free. If eligibility is confirmed, the child begins receiving special education and related services per the Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Contact Information

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