

Child Find for Children Three to Twenty

A. Child Find Policy, Procedure, and Responsibility

Each SAU shall maintain and implement policies and procedures to ensure that all children residing in the jurisdiction between the ages of 3 and 20 years, including children with disabilities who are homeless children, are wards of the State or state agency clients, children with disabilities attending private schools and receiving home instruction, highly mobile children (including migrant or homeless), children who have the equivalent of 10 full days of unexcused absences or 7 consecutive school days of unexcused absences during a school year, and children incarcerated in county jails, and who are in need of special education and related services, even though they are advancing from grade to grade, are identified, located and evaluated at public expense. [34 CFR 300.111(a)(i,ii) and (c)(1,2)] As noted on pages 7 and 12 of this rule, all references to school administrative units (SAUs) include the State intermediate educational units (IEUs), where appropriate.

Each SAU shall provide child find during the first 30 days of the school year or during the first 30 days of enrollment for transfer children. If evidence of child find activities and a statement of the results can be found in a child's cumulative record, or the unit has reason to believe the child has previously been identified as a child with a disability by another SAU, in state or out of state, child find is not necessary.

An SAU that tuitions or contracts for educational services for some or all of its children is responsible for child find either through appropriate arrangements with the receiving unit or school or through direct child find services by unit personnel or contracted personnel.

This child find responsibility shall be accomplished through a unit-wide process which, while not a definitive or final judgment of a child's capabilities or disability, is a possible indicator of special education needs.

Final identification of children with disabilities and programming for such children occurs only after an appropriate evaluation and a determination by the IEP Team.

(1) Child Find Responsibility for Incarcerated Children

(a) Responsibility for children with disabilities incarcerated in county jails shall rest with the school administrative unit in which the child resided prior to the incarceration.

(b) Responsibility for children incarcerated (committed) in State facilities shall rest with the Department of Corrections. Their responsibility includes the education of residents with disabilities in facilities operated under their jurisdiction as well as child find activities.

(c) For children who are non-adjudicated at state facilities under the Department of Corrections the responsibility shall rest with the school administrative unit in which the child resided prior to be detained.