

Child Find

What is Child Find?

The [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#) includes the Child Find mandate. Child Find requires all school districts to identify, locate and evaluate all children with disabilities, regardless of the severity of their disabilities. This obligation to identify all children who may need special education services exists even if the school is not providing special education services to the child.

Why is Child Find Necessary?

The primary purpose of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act is to ensure that all children with disabilities receive a free appropriate public education, including special education and related services that are "designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment and independent living.

Another purpose of the law is to help each State implement a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated multi-disciplinary system of [Early Intervention Services](#) for infants and toddlers with disabilities. Young children with disabilities must receive appropriate early intervention services to "prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living."

Congress encourages states to provide Early Intervention Services so children with developmental delays and other disabilities will receive treatment early. Congress enacted the Early Intervention Program for Infants and Toddlers to provide interagency coordination of services to children from birth to two years of age. Under IDEA, states must ensure that children with disabilities are eligible for special education services by age three.

Who do I Contact for Support?

Please contact Dianne Lewis at Dianne.lewis@inspirenolaschools.org

504-330-0062