

# Appendix 1: Child Find Information

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Child Find is the name of a continuous process of public awareness activities, screening and evaluation designed to locate, identify, and refer as early as possible all young children with suspected disabilities and their families who are in need of Early Intervention Program (Part C) or Preschool Special Education (Part B/619) services of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA, 1997, 2004).

In Washington State, the Child Find requirements for the Early Intervention Program are administered under the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). Child Find Activities for ages three through 21 are under the lead agency of Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).

## **Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 392-172A-02040**

- (1) The school district shall conduct child find activities calculated to reach all students with a suspected disability for the purpose of locating, evaluating and identifying students who are in need of special education and related services, regardless of the severity of their disability. The child find activities shall extend to students residing in the district whether or not they are enrolled in school. Students attending private elementary or secondary schools located within the district shall be located, identified and evaluated consistent with WAC 392-172A-04005. Districts will conduct child find activities for infants and toddlers, consistent with the child find requirements of the lead agency for Part C of the act.
- (2) Child find activities must be calculated to reach students who are homeless, wards of the state, highly mobile students with disabilities, such as homeless and migrant students and students who are suspected of being a student with a disability and in need of special education, even though they are advancing from grade to grade.
- (3) The local school district shall have policies and procedures in effect that describe the methods it uses to conduct child find activities in accordance with subsections (1) and (2) of this section. Methods used may include but are not limited to activities such as:
  - (a) Written notification to all parents of students in the district's jurisdiction regarding access to and the use of its child find system;
  - (b) Posting notices in school buildings, other public agency offices, medical facilities, and other public areas, describing the availability of special education programs;
  - (c) Offering preschool developmental screening;

- (d) Conducting local media informational campaigns;
- (e) Coordinating distribution of information with other child find programs within public and private agencies;
- (f) Internal district review of students such as screening district-wide test results, in-service education to staff, and other methods developed by the school district to identify, locate and evaluate students including a systematic, intervention based, process within general education for determining the need for special education referral.

## **Early Intervention Program (Part C)**

The Governor of Washington designated the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) as the lead agency, with the primary responsibility for planning and implementing IDEA, Part C (then Part H) in Washington State. IDEA, Part C funds are used to enhance early intervention services for children, ages birth to three years, and their families, who meet Washington State's eligibility criteria. The federal legislation allows Washington State to request federal funds to:

- ◆ Implement a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated, interagency program of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families;
- ◆ Facilitate the coordination of payment for early intervention services from federal, state, local and private sources, and enhance the capacity of the state to provide early intervention services.

As the lead agency DSHS delegates program management responsibilities to the Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program (ITEIP) in the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD). ITEIP manages and implements lead agency responsibilities for DSHS including management of overall assurances, contracting and monitoring requirements.

ITEIP facilitates the development of local and state interagency agreements and local early intervention plans. It assists contractors with implementation of policies and procedures and supports County Interagency Coordinating Councils (CICCs) to provide input to the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) and intra/interagency working committees. ITEIP develops training across all major disciplines around Part C implementation and service delivery and conducts ongoing monitoring of program operations, as necessary according to contractual need, and federal and state statutes.