

Project Child Find

What is Project Child Find?

Project Child Find is an effort coordinated by your local school system and the Exceptional Children Division, State Department of Public Instruction, to:

- Locate and identify children and youth ages 0 through 21 with disabilities who are in need of special education and related services; and
- Inform parents and/or guardians of the services available from their local school system and other state and community agencies.

Who are the Children?

We are seeking children and youth who have been diagnosed or are suspected to have mental, physical, or emotional disabilities and are unable to benefit from a regular school program without specialized instruction.

Why Do Schools Conduct Project Child Find Each Year?

- A free appropriate public education is the right of every child with a disability, age 3 through 21.
- The law provides for early intervention services for children with a disability, birth through two years of age.
- Parents of children and youth with disabilities need your support and assistance.
- The McDowell County School System and the Exceptional Children Division need your help in locating these children.
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How Do Schools Conduct Project Child Find Each Year?

- Each school in the McDowell County School System has a Multi-Tiered System of Support team or a Responsiveness To Instruction Team to help identify student needs.
- Project Child Find is ongoing through these teams.
- Teachers, Nurses, School Social Workers, parents, etc. identify students who are not progressing academically as expected.
- The MTSS or RTI team works with teachers and parents to determine why students are not progressing and what support the student needs.

What Help is Available?

- A complete evaluation and, if appropriate,
- An Individualized Education Program for children with a disability beginning at age three,
- A referral to other agencies when needed.

What is the Parent Referral Procedure?

If you feel that your child has a disability and is in need of specially designed instruction to be successful in school:

- Contact the school system with your concerns and request an evaluation. School personnel will help you to put your concerns in written form within 30 days.
- A team that includes the parent will decide if an evaluation is appropriate based on student, strengths, needs and existing data.
- The determination of an evaluation, summary of results and an individual education plan if appropriate will be concluded within 90 days of your referral.
- Eligibility will be determined by state and federal guidelines. Special Education services will be based on the adverse effect of the disability and the need for specially designed instruction.
- All students are eligible for evaluations including highly mobile children.

For More Information Contact:

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