

Child Find Policy

The Portsmouth School Department ensures that a process of identifying, locating and evaluating all children with disabilities, including children attending private schools, and who reside within the Department's jurisdiction, will be developed and implemented in accordance with Federal and New Hampshire state legislation for the education of children with disabilities.

A Child Find Program has been developed for the Portsmouth School Department that ensures all potentially disabled children, including those attending private schools, highly mobile children with disabilities (such as migrant and homeless children) and those who are in need of special education and related services are identified, located, and evaluated.

When a child is suspected of being a child with a disability they will be referred to the Special Education Evaluation Team.

The Child Find Program includes, but is not limited to, the following guidelines:

1. Children ages 0-6 may participate in the Portsmouth School Department on-going screenings and child find activities. Screenings are designed to encourage parents, community day care providers, physicians and the public to be aware of the Department's Special Education Programs, who to contact and how to contact them for children suspected of having a disability.
2. Transitions from early support and service agencies into the Department's programs begin between the ages of 27 and 29 months for children already suspected of having a disability. These children are referred to the Pre-School IEP team for review, evaluation and identification when appropriate.
3. Parents, social services agencies, physicians, and other public agencies are notified annually through correspondence from the Superintendent of Schools, brochures and school newsletters of the Department's Child Find Policy.
4. Screenings include a process where trained professionals are able to identify potential academic, vision hearing, medical or language concerns. Children at-risk will be referred to a more detailed screening and/or a referral to the Department's IEP Team for an annual follow-up screening. All kindergarten children are screened by the School Department and children in grade one are screened using the Developmental Reading Assessment.
5. Students may be referred to the school's IEP Team for the following reasons:
 - (a) Failing to pass a hearing or vision screening.
 - (b) Unsatisfactory performance on a group achievement assessment or other performance measures.
 - (c) Receiving multiple academic or behavioral warnings.
 - (d) Repeatedly failing one or more subjects.
 - (e) Referral from outside agencies, parents, teachers who suspect a child may have a disability.
 - (f) Children who may have been referred to the special education process but may require further intervention.

Portsmouth School Board Approved:

January 11, 2011

Portsmouth School Board Revised:

March 8, 2016

- (g) Private schools within the School Department's jurisdiction are notified of the Child Find Policy and referral procedures.
- (h) All private school children with disabilities, including children attending religious schools and who reside within the jurisdiction of the Portsmouth School Department, shall be located, identified and evaluated.
- (i) The activities to carry out this responsibility will be in accordance with responsibilities comparable to activities undertaken for children attending public schools.
- (j) The will annually contact representatives of private schools to determine how to undertake these activities.

Portsmouth School Board Approved:

January 11, 2011

Portsmouth School Board Revised:

March 8, 2016