

# FACT SHEET



## Child Find

### What is Child Find?

Schools must have policies and procedures in effect to ensure that all children with exceptionalities (those who have disabilities and those who are gifted) and who are in need of special education and related services are identified, located, and evaluated. This includes children who attend public or private schools, which are home schooled; are highly mobile including migrant and homeless, or are wards of the State. The child find requirement for schools applies to children ages birth through 21. Child find in Kansas involves a screening process for children from birth through age 5, and a general education intervention process for children from kindergarten through age 21 (K.A.R. 91-40-7; 34 C.F.R. 300.111(a)(c)).

#### PUBLIC NOTICE FOR CHILD FIND

The first step in the child find process is to provide information to the public concerning the availability of special education services for exceptional children, including procedures for accessing these services. This public notice is usually provided at the beginning of the school year and must be repeated annually. Copies of the information from child find activities must be kept on file as documentation for implementing policies and procedures (K.A.R. 91-40-7(d)).

#### SCREENING FOR CHILDREN FROM BIRTH THROUGH 5

Screening for children from birth through age 5 are developmental screenings and must include observations, instruments, measures, and techniques that address potential developmental delays or disabilities in the areas of communication, cognitive development, social-emotional development, self-help/adaptive behavior, and/or physical development. This requirement also extends to hearing and vision screenings, which must be available on an equal basis to all children in public and all private schools within the district's boundaries (K.S.A. 72-6228 and 72-

6251 through -6268). If the results of the screening indicate a potential developmental delay or disability, the screening team makes the referral for initial evaluation.

#### GENERAL EDUCATION INTERVENTION (GEI) FOR CHILDREN FROM KINDERGARTEN THROUGH AGE 21

For children in kindergarten through age 21, Kansas screening laws require that schools utilize observations, instruments, measures, and techniques that disclose any potential exceptionality and indicate a need for evaluation, including hearing and vision screening, and age-appropriate assessments for school-aged children designed to identify possible physical, intellectual, social or emotional, language, or perceptual differences. Screening must be available for children in public schools, private schools, or for children who are homeschooled. For children of school age attending a private elementary or secondary school, the district in which the private school is located is responsible for child find for children who are residents and non-residents of the district who may be attending the private school (K.S.A. 72-3410(a)(1); 34 C.F.R. 300.131(a)).

#### DATA COLLECTION AND DOCUMENTATION FOR GENERAL EDUCATION INTERVENTIONS

GEI has been a requirement in Kansas since 2000, however, with the most recent reauthorization of IDEA and the subsequent Kansas regulations, the requirements for GEI were strengthened. With the exception of a parent request for evaluation and school agreement that an evaluation is appropriate, before a child may be referred for a special education evaluation, school personnel are now required to have data-based documentation that:

- (1) general education interventions and strategies would be inadequate to address the areas of concern for the child, or
- (2) the child was provided appropriate instruction in regular education settings that was delivered by qualified personnel; and

(3) the child's academic achievement was repeatedly assessed at reasonable intervals which reflected formal assessment of the child's progress during instruction (K.A.R. 91-40-7(c)).

In either case, there must be data-based documentation that provides a basis for determining that a special education evaluation is warranted.

### REFERRAL FOR INITIAL EVALUATION

Screening and GEI are child find activities, and either process may result in the determination that an initial evaluation for special education is needed. Most decisions to move forward into initial evaluation will come as a result of these processes. However, parents or adult students may request an initial evaluation at any time and general education interventions may not be used to delay or deny the requested evaluation (OSEP 11-07). The school district may refuse to conduct an evaluation that has been requested by parents or adult students, but it must provide the parents with Prior Written Notice of the refusal to conduct the evaluation and the reasons for the refusal.

### Responsible District or Program

Local school districts are required to conduct ongoing public notice, screening, general education interventions, and evaluation to ensure that Kansas children from birth through age 5 with disabilities, and

children from kindergarten through age 21 with exceptionalities are identified appropriately. For children of school age attending a private elementary or secondary school, the district in which the private school is located is responsible for child find for children who are residents and non-residents of the district who may be attending the private school. For preschoolers, the school district where the child resides is responsible for child find, even if the child attends preschool or child care in another district. This responsibility to conduct child find efforts for children from birth through age 2 may be shared with the Part C Infant-Toddler program but is the responsibility of the school district.

### Transition from Part C

For children receiving Part C services who need an initial evaluation to determine eligibility for Part B special education services, the Part C Infant-Toddler Program must make a referral to the school district. The referral is to be made at least 90 calendar days prior to the child's third birthday and according to the school's policy for making a referral for an initial evaluation. Federal law requires states to develop and use policies and procedures to ensure a smooth transition for toddlers receiving early intervention services under Part C of IDEA to Part B services, other appropriate services, or exiting the program. If not eligible and in need of special education a determination that the student is not eligible for Part B services (34 C.F.R. 303.209(a)(1)).

### Resources

[KSDE Kansas Special Education Process Handbook](#)

[Parent's Guide to Special Education in Kansas](#)

[Kansas Technical Assistance System Network \(TASN\) ATBS](#)

For more information, contact:

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