# EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION What IS CHILD FIND?

The purpose of Child Find is to identify, locate, and evaluate children and youth ages 5 to 21 years of age who are suspected of having or have a diagnosed disability or developmental delay, in order to provide appropriate exceptional education services under the law.

# WHAT IS EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION?

Exceptional education is instruction designed to meet the unique learning strengths and needs of the individual student with disabilities from ages 5 to 21 years of age. It is defined as:

- Specially designed instruction
- At no cost to the parents
- To meet the unique needs of a child with a disability.

Exceptional education services may be provided in a variety of educational settings but are required by IDEA to be delivered in the least restrictive environment.

## WHEN SHOULD A CHILD BE REFERRED TO CHILD FIND?

A child should be referred when:

- A health or a medical disorder interferes with development and/or learning.
- A child seems to have difficulty seeing or hearing.
- A child appears to have social, emotional or behavioral difficulties that affect his/her ability to learn or interact with others
- A child has a diagnosed progressive or degenerative condition that will eventually impair or impede the child's ability to learn.
- A child seems to have difficulty understanding directions like others that are his/her age.
- A child's speech is not understood by family or friends.
- A child has difficulty with reading, writing and math.

## THE DISABILITY CATEGORIES ARE:

- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Deaf or Hard of hearing
- Deaf-Blindness –
- Developmental delay (Early Childhood)
- Emotional Disability
- Language/ Speech Impairment
- Cognitive Disability
- Multiple Disabilities
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Other Health Impairment
- Specific Learning Disability
- Traumatic Brain Injury 4 Blind or Low Vision

## HOW CAN CHILDREN BE REFERRED?

A referral may be made by a parent or by any person concerned about a child. Parent involvement and agreement is obtained prior to any further action. Information is confidential and the privacy of children and parents is protected.

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