

CHILD FIND PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is to inform parents of the child identification, location, screening and evaluation activities to be conducted throughout the year by the local school district in coordination with the Oklahoma State Department of Education. Personally identifiable information shall be collected and maintained in a confidential manner in carrying out the following activities.

Confidentiality during Child Find

Each Local Education Agency (LEA) is responsible for informing parents of their rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as amended and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) regarding personally identifiable information which is maintained in the child identification process (e.g., annual child count).

The LEA must publish or announce notice of rights concerning personally identifiable information on the school website or other media prior to conducting any major identification, location, screening or evaluation activity. The school website or other media must have circulation adequate to notify parents within the area. LEAs may combine notice of these rights with announcements and publications informing parents of child identification, location, screening or evaluation activities to be conducted throughout the year.

The notice must fully inform parents about the child find requirements, including; (1) a description of the children on whom personally identifiable information is maintained, the types of information sought, the methods and sources to be used in gathering the information; (2) a summary of the policies and procedures that participating agencies must follow regarding storage, disclosure to third parties, retention and destruction of personally identifiable information; (3) a description of the rights of parents and children regarding confidentiality of information in accordance with FERPA and the IDEA. The notice must be made available to parents in their native language or other modes of communication, as necessary.

Screening

LEAs are responsible for implementing screening activities and procedures as a means of locating and identifying children who may have disabilities. Screening assists the LEA in determining children who may require referrals for comprehensive evaluations. The screening process must not be considered an evaluation for eligibility for special education and related services.

Screening activities include, but are not limited to vision, hearing and health screening, programs available to all children on a school wide or classroom basis; district wide performance on assessments; daily classroom work; observations; developmental measures; and assessment scores already available from the Oklahoma School Testing Program (OSTP) procedures available to and used with all children in a class, grade or school site. The OSDE-SES provides technical assistance and training to assist school sites in implementation of screening activities under State and Federal requirements for the IDEA. Other public and private resources may also be utilized in cooperative efforts for screening of children with suspected disabilities.

Referral and Evaluation

Each LEA is responsible for developing and maintaining a comprehensive, multidisciplinary referral, evaluation and eligibility process for the identification of children with suspected disabilities. Parents and school personnel must be informed of referral and evaluation procedures.

Evaluation means procedures used in accordance with 34 CFR 300.300-311 to determine whether a child has a disability under the IDEA and the nature and extent of the special education and related services that the child needs.

Interagency referrals and other public or private resources may be utilized as appropriate; however, LEAs retain responsibility for ensuring the provision of timely evaluations at no cost to the parents. Interagency or intergovernmental agreements and cooperative arrangements may be used to accomplish referrals and evaluations by qualified personnel employed by other public agencies.

Referral procedures must document review of existing data to assist the LEA, the parents and other qualified professionals in determining evaluation information that may be necessary to determine whether the student has a disability that requires special education; present levels of performance and educational needs; and, for an eligible child, whether any accommodations are needed to participate in the general education curriculum and meet IEP goals. Review of data should include any efforts and considerations of interventions and services to assist and support the child's academic functioning in the general education environment or other appropriate settings for preschool aged children. These efforts might include student support teams, mainstream assistance teams, co-teaching and collaboration models and cooperative learning and peer tutoring.

As determined by the Oklahoma Early Intervention Act (70 O.S. 13-121), the children eligible for entry into the Early Intervention services (SoonerStart) must be infants and toddlers ages birth through two years (0-35 months) who are developmentally delayed. As used in this act "developmentally delayed" means children of the chronological age group specified in this section who;

- (1) Exhibit at least one and a half (1.5) standard deviations below the mean in two or more broad developmental domains of cognitive, physical, communication, social or emotional or adaptive development
- (2) Exhibit at least two (2) standard deviations below the mean in at least one broad development domain of cognitive, physical, communication, social or emotional or adaptive development
- (3) Have a diagnosed physical or mental condition that has a high probability of resulting in a delay. This includes, but is not limited to: chromosomal disorders, neurological abnormalities, inborn errors of metabolism, genetic disorders, congenital malformations of the brain, congenital infections, sensory abnormalities and impairments or identified syndromes.

For further information, please call David Sullivan, Special Services Director @ 405-247-2288.



**ANADARKO PUBLIC SCHOOLS CHILD FIND NOTICE TO PARENTS REGARDING IDENTIFICATION,
LOCATION, SCREENING AND EVALUATION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

The purpose of this policy is to state the intention of the Anadarko Public Schools to fulfill its responsibility to establish and implement an ongoing Child Find system to locate, identify and evaluate students ages 3 through 21 years, who are suspected of having a disability and may need special education, regardless of the severity of the disability and to coordinate with SoonerStart Early Intervention Program regarding the Child Find system for children ages birth to 3 years of age. This includes the following: child identification, location, screening, and evaluation activities to be conducted throughout the year by the Local Education Agency (LEA) in coordination with Oklahoma State Department of Education. Personally identifiable information shall be collected and maintained in a confidential manner in carrying out the Child Find activities.

The District's Child Find system will include all children within the District's geographic boundaries.

The District will coordinate with other agencies and promote public awareness to locate children who may have disabilities.

The District will take appropriate and necessary steps to ensure that District staff and the general public are informed of:

- the availability of special education services;
- a student's right to a free appropriate public education;
- confidentiality protections;
- the special education referral process

and will provide this information through a variety of methods.

In the identification process, the District may use screening or coordinated early intervening services. The district's general education interventions will not delay the initial evaluation for special education services of a student suspected of having a disability.

If through Child Find activities, a child is identified as possibly having a disability and needing special education services, the District may seek parent consent to evaluate the child. All such evaluations will be conducted in compliance with applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

Anadarko Public Schools serves the following students: Developmental Delay – Ages 3 through 9
Category Specific – Ages 10 through 21

For more information please call David Sullivan, Director of Special Services at 247-2288.