



## Child Find FAQ

### **Is your child struggling in school or at home?**

All children grow and develop at different rates. If you are concerned about a child's development, the sooner a delay is discovered, the sooner help may be offered. Voicing your concern is the first step in identifying children who may need intervention.

### **Is your child excelling in school or at home?**

All children grow and develop at different rates. If you notice that your child is accelerating in multiple academic areas, school-based services may be offered.

### **What is "Child Find"?**

Cumberland County Schools (CCS) Implements Child Find activities to identify, locate, and evaluate all children with disabilities or who are suspected of having a disability residing in Cumberland County, ages three (3) through twenty-one (21), both inclusive, who need special education and related services, even though they are advancing from grade to grade. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Children who are enrolled by their parent(s) in a non-public school located within the jurisdictional boundaries.
- Children who are wards of the state; and
- Children who are highly mobile (including children who are migrants and children who are homeless).

Due to the impact of an educational disability, it is important that CCS implement effective, ongoing activities to identify, locate and evaluate all children with disabilities or who are suspected of having a disability through a comprehensive approach.

### **Who may I contact?**

- School age children contact your zoned school.
- Children under 2.5 years of age, contact Tennessee Early Intervention Services at 1-800-852-7157.
- Children in private schools, contact your zoned school or Cumberland County Schools Special Education Department at 931-484-3301.

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Legal Reference: TN SBE Rule 520-01-09.5



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### What procedures are used to help identify children?

- CCS effectively uses school screening and collaborative working relationships with other agencies serving children that will result in students with disabilities being identified. Universal screening data for all students is used to help identify students as well. During school-based data meetings that are held every 4.5 weeks, the team reviews academic and nonacademic data of students who are accelerating in multiple academic areas or who are not making adequate progress. General Education programs will provide and document interventions implemented. If a child is suspected of having a disability, any stakeholder may make a referral to the school principal or director of special education.
- Any child suspected of having a disability may be referred to CCS. All referrals should be in writing to the school principal or director of special education. Once a written referral is received, an IAIEP meeting will be scheduled to gain consent for an evaluation to determine eligibility based on the TN State Disability Criteria. Teachers and the parent(s) may refer a student to be evaluated to determine if the child has a disability and is eligible for special education. The parent(s) may request that CCS conduct a full and individualized evaluation of the parent's child. During the IAIEP meeting, the IAIEP Team will review data and determine whether an evaluation is warranted. The decisions of the IAIEP Team and meeting notes are documented in a Prior Written Notice, the IAIEP Team will agree on the contents of the Prior Written Notice, and the parent(s) will be provided a copy.



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### What is the process?

- If the screening or the referral indicates the possibility of an educational disability, parent consent is obtained for a comprehensive evaluation during a consent meeting with a 10-day notice. During the IAIEP meeting, procedural safeguards notification will be reviewed with the parent(s), and a copy of the procedural safeguards will be given to the parent(s). Children will be tested in all relevant areas agreed upon by the IAIEP Team. The decisions of the IAIEP Team and meeting notes are documented in a Prior Written Notice, the IAIEP Team will agree on the contents of the Prior Written Notice, and the parent(s) will be provided a copy.
- Eligibility determinations will be completed within sixty (60) calendar days of receipt of parental consent for an initial evaluation. Eligibility decisions for special education services is two-pronged: (1) the IAIEP Team decides whether the evaluation results indicate the presence of a disability, and (2) the IAIEP Team decides whether the identified disability adversely impacts the student's educational performance such that (s)he requires the most intensive intervention (i.e., special education and related services). Teams are required to determine whether a student's disability adversely affects the student's educational performance such that (s)he needs the support of specially designed instruction or services beyond modification of the regular environment. The decisions of the IAIEP Team and meeting notes are documented in a Prior Written Notice, the IAIEP Team will agree on the contents of the Prior Written Notice, and the parent(s) will be provided a copy.
- If it is determined that the child has a disability and needs special education and/or related services, an IAIEP meeting is scheduled within a 30-day timeline. An individual education plan or service plan is developed depending on the child's age, disability, and educational needs. Educational placement and services are determined on an individual basis during the IAIEP Team meeting. The decisions of the IAIEP Team and meeting notes are documented in a Prior Written Notice, the IAIEP Team will agree on the contents of the Prior Written Notice, and the parent(s) will be provided a copy.

### What are some services that may be provided?

Services are determined on an individual basis during the IAIEP Team meeting.

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### What is the cost?

Screening, assessment, evaluations, and all special education services, which are determined to be necessary, are provided free of charge.

### What are your rights and responsibilities?

Please see the link below for additional information:

- [https://fd7c3f13-324a-49c8-b037-68270e0b9377.filesusr.com/ugd/350300\\_ef7ccbbd8fa44ad2a8fa1aeb5d691324.pdf](https://fd7c3f13-324a-49c8-b037-68270e0b9377.filesusr.com/ugd/350300_ef7ccbbd8fa44ad2a8fa1aeb5d691324.pdf)

**Agencies:** Multiple agencies collaborate with CCS to find children who may need special education services. If you are concerned about a child you know, please contact one of the following agencies:

- Cumberland County Schools Special Education Department: 931-484-3301
- Tennessee Early Intervention Services: 1-800-852-7157
- Head Start: 931-484-4114
- Cumberland County Health Department: 931-484-6196
- Department of Human Services: 615-313-4700
- Department of Children's Services: 615-741-9701
- You may also contact your zoned school, preschool, doctor, or clinic.