

CHILD FIND

BP 6164.4(a)

Note: AS 14.30.274 and 4 AAC 52.100 require districts to establish written procedures to ensure children with disabilities are identified for assessment purposes. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 USC 1412(a)(3) and 34 CFR 300.111 and 300.131, requires that this “child find” identification system include identification of students with disabilities attending private schools, including religious-school children residing within the district, and highly mobile children with disabilities, such as migrant and homeless children. In order to carry out this requirement, a practical method must be developed to determine which children with disabilities are currently receiving needed special education and related services. Services for a private school student, in accordance with an individualized education program (IEP), must be provided at no cost to the parent/guardian, unless the private school makes a free and appropriate public education available to the student and the parent/guardian chooses to enroll the student in that private school. If the public school is providing services to the student, these services may be provided on the premises of the private school, including parochial schools, to the extent consistent with other provisions of law.

The School Board recognizes the responsibility of the district to identify children residing in the district who need special education and related services. As required by law, the Superintendent or designee shall establish written procedures for locating children with exceptional needs in order to provide a free appropriate public education to all eligible children. The Board encourages all members of the community to assist the district in its effort to identify the need for special education and related services within the community.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish and implement an ongoing system to identify and locate children, age 3 through 21 years of age, suspected of having a disability who reside within the district, regardless of the severity of the disability. The components and procedures of this system will be detailed in a written Child Find Plan. The Plan shall identify a Child Find Coordinator, address coordination of child find activities, provide for annual public notice, referrals, and screening.

Child Find Coordinator

The Superintendent shall appoint a Child Find Coordinator who coordinates the development, revision, implementation, and documentation of the District’s child find system.

Annual Public Notice

The Superintendent or designee shall annually inform the community about the right to, and availability of, educational services for children with disabilities. This notice shall inform parents/guardians in writing of the types of qualifying disabilities, the educational needs of children with disabilities, the rights of children to a free appropriate public education, the services available to these children, confidentiality protections, and the district’s procedures for initiating a referral for assessment to identify individuals who need special education services.

Note: The following contains optional language for those districts with a statewide correspondence program.

The notice must be calculated to reach all persons within the District, [including all persons responsible for children who are enrolled in the District’s statewide correspondence program.]

CHILD FIND (continued)

BP 6164.4(b)

Referral

Note: Pursuant to 34 C.F.R. § 300.300, amended effective 2009, a school district may, but is not required to, pursue a due process hearing when a parent or guardian refuses to consent to an initial evaluation or re-evaluation. However, a school district may not pursue a due process hearing if a parent refuses consent to special education services.

The Superintendent or designee shall implement a procedure to receive referrals of children suspected of having a disability for which special education and related services are needed. . There shall be no discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin or gender in referring students for evaluation. Referrals will be acted on without undue delay.

The school district shall obtain the informed written consent of a child's parent before conducting an initial evaluation, and before placing the student in a special education program in the district. If consent is not given for an initial evaluation, and the district believes it should proceed with the assessment, it may initiate due process hearing procedures in accordance with law to determine whether the district can proceed with an evaluation.

(cf. 1400 - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)

(cf. 6172 - Special Education)

*Legal Reference:*ALASKA STATUTES

14.30.191 Educational evaluation and placement

14.30.274 Identification of exceptional children

ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

4 AAC 52.100 Child find

4 AAC 52.120 Evaluation

4 AAC 52.125 Eligibility

4 AAC 52.130 Criteria for determination of eligibility

4 AAC 52.190 Written notice to parent

4 AAC 52.200 Parental consent

4 AAC 52.540 Parental right to independent evaluation

4 AAC 52.580 Placement of child during proceedings

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1232g Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974

1400 et seq. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29

701 et seq. Rehabilitation Act of 1973

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34,

99.10-99.22 Inspection, review and procedures for amending education records

300. et seq. IDEA Regulations

Revised 3/2017