

CHILD FIND POLICY

If you have or know of a child whom may have a disability, contact your local school for more information and help.

School districts across the state of Ohio are participating in an effort to identify, locate, and evaluate all children from birth through 21 years of age who may have disabilities. Disability, in this instance, means such conditions as hearing impairments, visual impairments, speech or language impairments, specific learning disabilities, emotionally disturbed, multiple disabilities, mental retardation, other health impairments, physical impairments, autism, and traumatic brain injury. Public schools have responded vigorously to federal and state mandates requiring the provision of a free appropriate public education regardless of a child's disability.

What will happen when you contact your local school district?

The school district will ask for information about the child, asking such questions as: What is the problem? What has already been done about the problem? What background information is available? This information may be collected in several ways including interviews, observations, screening, and testing. This information may be obtained from parents and the student, or from other agencies that have information about the student. This information will be use to decide whether the child has a disability and needs special services.

All information collected will be held in strict confidence and released to others only with parent permission or as allowed by law.

What are your rights as a parent?

Parents and students have rights in this process. Parents have the right to:

- Review their child's records;
- Refuse permission to release information (except as required by, or permitted by law to be released); and
- Request that information they believe to be inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of their child's privacy or other rights to be changed. The district has a process to resolve disagreements about information collected.

The school district's policies and procedures for special education are available. Contact the School Director if you wish to review these procedures.