



CHILD FIND

Lee County School District (LCSD) is looking for children with disabilities who are 3-21 years of age who are not in school.

Child Find seeks to offer a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) to all children with disabilities in the following categories:

1. Autism
2. Deaf/Blind
3. Developmentally Delayed
4. Emotional Disability
5. Hearing Impairment
6. Language Speech Impairment
7. Multiple Disabilities
8. Specific Learning Disability
9. Traumatic Brain Injury
10. Visual Impairment
11. Other Health Impairment
12. Orthopedic Impairment
13. Intellectual Disability

LCSD is part of Child Find, a continuous statewide effort to identify, locate, and evaluate children through the age of twenty-one, who have a disability. Early identification of children in need of special education services is very important to each child's educational success.

LCSD provides services for children with disabilities through assuring implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The LCSD guarantees all services to ensure a free appropriate public education through the development of an Individualized Education Program (I.E.P.)

Any person or agency with knowledge of a child with a disability not receiving educational services should contact the Lee County School District Child Find Coordinator/Director of Special Services, Kathy Dickerson.

The Child Find Coordinator will ensure that the referred child is properly evaluated. If the student is found to be eligible for services, the Child Find Coordinator will ensure that the student receives appropriate, individualized special education and related services in accordance with applicable federal and state regulations.

LCSD Special Education program provides services to students who have been determined to have one or more disabilities. Information gathered from parents and agencies helps LCSD to determine present and future program needs to make sure a FAPE is provided to all children with disabilities.

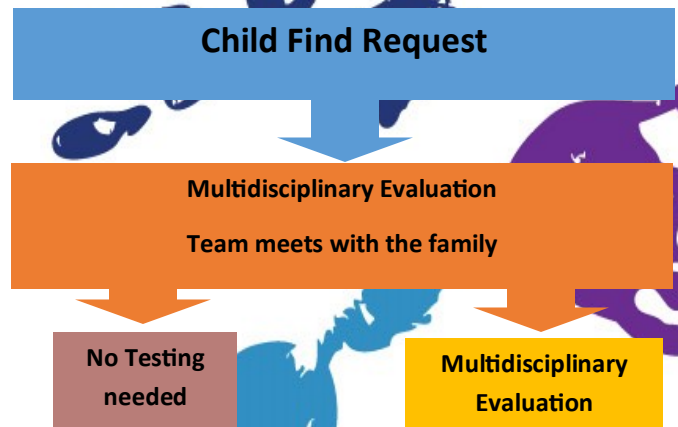
Family members, physicians, and educators, as well as, representatives of various agencies such as the Health Department, Department of Mental Health, Head Start facilities, and day care centers may make referrals of in-school (public or private) or out-of-school children.

How are children identified and located?

Anyone concerned about a child's speech, learning, behavior, or development can make a Child Find request. A multidisciplinary evaluation team will meet with the family within 14 days to decide if an evaluation is needed. If so, written permission from the child's parent is required before an evaluation is conducted.

What is a multidisciplinary evaluation?

A multidisciplinary evaluation will involve a series of observations, tests, assessments and interviews with the child and caregiver(s). These will be conducted by two or more specialists such as a speech language pathologist, a school psychologist, or special educator. A written summary of this evaluation will be provided to the family and a meeting will be held to determine if the child needs special services.



Any one wanting to make a referral for a child residing in Lee County School District should contact Kathy Dickerson, Child Find Coordinator, by calling the county office at (662) 841-9144, by writing to P. O. Box 832, Tupelo, MS 38802 or by emailing at kathy.dickerson@leecountyschools.us.

Lee County School District provides a high quality education in a safe, healthy environment and develops life long learners who become productive members of society.