



Northern Lights Special Education Cooperative

www.nlsec.k12.mn.us

302 14th Street ~ Cloquet, MN 55720
(218) 879-1283 ~ FAX (218) 879-1285

IDENTIFICATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004) requires public school to identify children who are in need of special education. This is also known as Child Find.

Child Find Minnesota Rule require that local education agencies (LEAs, which include school districts, charter schools, and cooperative entities), must identify, locate, and evaluate all children (including children parentally placed in private schools and homeless children) with disabilities who are in need of special education.

The LEA has an obligation to act on its own suspicions that a child may have special education needs by monitoring for sudden changes in grades, behavior, or attendance; major behavioral incidences; and other indicators.

LEAs must also respond to parents' requests for a special education evaluation and screen students for special education needs when they are placed in a care-and-treatment facility.

Each LEA must establish procedures and policies for complying with the child find requirement. Minnesota law requires that special education be available to qualifying children from birth through age 21. Special Education rules can be found in Minnesota Rule Chapter 3525.

Source: Office of the Legislative Auditor for the State of Minnesota. Evaluation Report/Special Education. March 2013 <http://www.auditor.leg.state.mn.us/ped/2013/access/combined.htm>

April 2015