

RSU 63

- a. **NEPN/NSBA Code:** IHBAC
b. **Title:** Child Find
c. **Author:** Director of Special Services
d. **Replaces Policy:**
e. **Date Approved:** RSU 63
f. **Previously Approved:** 08/26/2013
g. **Policy Expiration:** Review as Needed
h. **Responsible for Review:** Director of Special Services/Superintendent/
Policy Committee
i. **Date Reviewed:** 11/07/2017 Director of Special Services
11/07/2017 Superintendent
11/14/2017 Policy Committee
j. **References:** 34 CFR § 300.111 (2006)
Maine DOE Rule Ch. 101 §IV (2)
(May 2012)
k. **Narrative:**

Child Find requires all school districts to identify, locate and evaluate all children with disabilities, regardless of the severity of their disabilities. This obligation to identify all children who may need special education services exists even if the school is not providing special education services to the child.

The RSU #63 School District (the District) seeks to ensure that all school-age children (ages 5 through the school year in which they turn 20) in its jurisdiction are identified, located, and evaluated for special education and supportive services needs. These individuals include:

- Homeless children
- State wards
- Stage agency clients
- Students who have been suspended or expelled
- Children attending private schools
- Children who are home-schooled
- Children incarcerated in county jails
- Children who have the equivalent of 10 full days of unexcused absences or 7 consecutive school days of unexcused absences during a school year
- Highly mobile children (e.g. migrant children or homeless children) and;
- Children who are suspected of being disabled and in need of special education and supportive assistance even though they are advancing from grade to grade

The District is responsible for Child Find for resident students attending private or public schools though public tuition payments or public contract and will meet this duty either through appropriate arrangements with the receiving unit or school or through direct Child Find services by unit personnel or contracted personnel.

The District Child Find responsibility will be accomplished through a district wide process which, while not a definitive or final judgment of a student's capabilities or disability, is a possible indicator of special education needs. Final identification of students with disabilities

and programming for such students occurs only after an appropriate evaluation and a determination by the Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) Team.

This Child Find process will include obtaining data on each child through multiple measures, direct assessment, and parent information regarding the child's academic and functional performance, gross and fine motor skills, receptive and expressive language skills, vision, hearing and cognitive skills. RSU #63 may schedule Child Find activities during its annual pre-kindergarten and kindergarten enrollment to assist in planning for necessary special education and related service at the start of the school year. If screening occurs in the spring prior to school entry, RSU #63 will refer the child to the regional CDS site within 10 school days.

If the Child Find process indicates that a student may require special education and supportive services in order to benefit from regular education, the student will be referred to the IEP Team to determine the student's eligibility for special education services.

School staff, parents or agency representatives, or other individuals with knowledge of the child may refer children to the IEP Team if they believe that the student, because of a disability, may be in need of special education and supportive services in order to benefit from regular education. Such a referral should follow the school unit's pre-referral and referral policy.