

Tips for Parents

Here are some suggestions for how you can best make use of the Screening process for your child:

Ask your child's daycare or pre-school teacher if they have concerns about your child

Ask your child's doctor if they have any concerns about your child

Consider the advice of friends and family when they have worries about your child

Call your local school principal or local school district office and ask about having your child attend a School Child Find Screening

Bring any papers from teachers, doctors or others to the Child Find screening

Nondiscrimination Notice

The Freeport School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in admission to, access to, or treatment of employment in its programs and activities.

The following person has been designated to coordinate compliance with IDEA and Section 504 the 1973 Rehabilitation Act. Inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies shall be directed to:

Dan Holder, Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Personnel Services
Freeport School District #145
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This brochure is an overview of

Chapter 1: Child Find

from the guide

Educational Rights and Responsibilities: Understanding Special Education in Illinois Guide Written by:

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The Parent Mentor Project brings schools and parents together to ensure a successful education for children with disabilities.



Freeport School District

Freeport School District

(815)232-0300

In partnership with students, family and community, we educate every student for the challenges of today and the opportunities of tomorrow through the continuous pursuit of excellence.



RAMP empowers people with disabilities to realize there are no limits to what they can do!

RAMP provides services & advocacy for people with disabilities from four Northern Illinois counties:

DeKalb (815)756-3202 | Stephenson (815)233-1128

Boone (815)544-8404 | Winnebago (815)968-7467

www.rampcill.org



Educational Rights & Responsibilities: Understanding Special Education in Illinois

Child Find Chapter 1:

An Overview



What is Child Find?

Child Find is an ongoing process through which all children, from birth through 21 (i.e., through the day before the student's 22nd birthday), or who may be eligible for early intervention, or who may be in need of special **education services are identified, located and evaluated.**

Each school district is responsible for actively locating, identifying and evaluating all children who live within the district boundaries who may qualify to receive special education and/or related services. **All school districts must have written procedures for child find activities for all school children**, including those attending private, charter, and/or religiously affiliated schools.

These written procedures must describe activities for:

- **annual screening of children under the age of five** to identify those who may need early intervention or special education services;
- ongoing review of all children in general education classes;
- ongoing coordination with early intervention programs like Child and Family Connections, Head Start, local preschools and daycare facilities.
- coordination and consultation with nonpublic schools located within the district.
- referrals of children who might require evaluation for special education from parents, school staff, and representatives from community agencies.

It is important to locate children with disabilities at a young age so that early help and support can be provided. Studies show that students learn and grow more successfully when they receive help early in their lives. Referrals for evaluation may be made by a parent, community agency, physician, day care provider, teacher or private school employee.

Screening

Screening is the process of reviewing **all** children in a given group with a **set of criteria** for the purpose of identifying certain individuals for evaluations who may be in need of special education.

No child can be determined eligible to receive early intervention/special education and related services based only on the results of a screening procedure.

Screening is different from evaluation. It is not specific to an individual child except where it is used by a school district to determine whether a child that has been referred for evaluation is in need of evaluation.

Screening does not involve administration of assessment instruments which would be used in an evaluation.

Screenings are done to determine which students are in need of evaluation. Screening may also occur when a particular child is referred for evaluation for special education in order for the school district to determine if evaluation is necessary.

Special education instruction and related services are available for children with special needs from birth to age 21.

Special needs may be in the areas of:

- Hearing
- Vision
- Health
- Behavior
- Or involve skills in:
 - Fine or gross motor
 - Speech/Language
 - Cognitive or learning
 - Social and emotional
 - Adaptive or self-help

Screening and evaluation, as appropriate, are available at **no cost** to the family.