

CHILD FIND

The West Greene School District conducts child find activities to determine that all children residing in the district, including children with disabilities attending private schools, regardless of the severity of the disability, and who are in need of special education and related services are identified, located and evaluated to ensure that eligible children receive a Free Appropriate Public Education. Child find efforts are extended to highly mobile children with disabilities (such as migrant and homeless children) and to those students suspected of being a child with a disability and in need of special education, even though they are advancing from grade to grade.

In Pennsylvania, a child between 3 years of age and the school district's age of beginners who has a developmental delay or one or more of the physical or mental conditions listed as a disability in IDEA is identified as an "eligible young child." Eligible young children are afforded the same rights under IDEA and Chapter 14 of the Pa. School Code as school age children, in order to determine if they are eligible to receive special education services through the screening and evaluation process. The Pennsylvania Department of Education is responsible for providing programs and services to eligible young children under Act 212 of 1990, the Early Intervention System Act. Screening services are available by contacting the Intermediate Unit 1 Child Alert Program at 1-800-328-6481.

Screening activities are implemented by the district to locate, identify, and evaluate students suspected of being a child with a disability eligible for special education. These screening activities include but are not limited to a review of cumulative records, enrollment records, health records, and report cards; hearing screening (at a minimum of kindergarten, special ungraded classes, first, second, third, seventh, and eleventh grades); vision screening (every grade level); motor screening; and speech and hearing screening. Screening activities are conducted on an ongoing basis throughout the school year.

When screening indicates that a student may be a child with a disability eligible for special education, the school district will seek parental consent to conduct an evaluation.

The district will conduct a full and individual evaluation, in accordance with (34 CFR 300.126 Procedures for Evaluation and Determination of Eligibility) before the initial provision of special education and related services to a child with a disability under part B of IDEA. The “evaluation” is the procedure used to determine whether a child has a disability and if the child’s disability is of the nature and extent that the child would be eligible for special education and related services. The evaluation will be conducted at no cost to the parent/guardian and consist of a variety of assessment tools and strategies to gather relevant functional and developmental information about the child. No single procedure is used as the sole criterion for determining eligibility. The child is assessed in all areas related to the suspected disability, including if appropriate, health, vision, hearing, social and emotional status, general intelligence, academic performance, communicative status, and motor abilities. A request for an initial evaluation may be made by school district personnel or the parent of the child.

Parents are asked to provide permission to conduct the evaluation by completing the Permission to Evaluate form. The initial evaluation shall be completed and a copy of the evaluation report shall be presented to the parents no later than 60 days after the school district receives written parental consent. Parents who think their child is a child with a disability may request, at any time, that the school district conduct an evaluation to determine if the child is eligible to receive special education and related services. This request must be made in writing to the district office.