

## CHILDFIND

All children with disabilities from birth to age twenty-one residing in the district, including children with disabilities who are homeless children or wards of the state and children with disabilities attending non-public schools, regardless of the severity of their disabilities, and who are in need of special education and related services, are identified, located, and evaluated and a practical method is developed and implemented to determine which children with disabilities are currently receiving needed special education and related services. The district will provide multiple methods to provide parents, guardians, and community members with information regarding how to refer a child for an evaluation and the identification process. These will include annual mailings sent to families with school-aged children and a link on the district's website. The district will accept referrals from parents, school staff and state and local agencies. Each school building will have a designated contact person who is knowledgeable about the district procedures, and the district will designate a contact person to oversee the child find process. The child find process will be consistent with Federal and state regulations.

### Student Assistance Teams (SAT)

The SAT shall utilize and document problem solving and intervention strategies to assist the teacher in the provision of general education for students experiencing difficulties in school. The SAT will be tailored to the difficulties facing the individual student and will be comprised of building staff identified as appropriate to the content areas causing these difficulties. The team will review the strengths and interests of the student and document all viable problem-solving and intervention strategies to help the student be more successful in school. The district will generally work to assist a student through the SAT process prior to evaluating the student for possible verification under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or Rule 51. The length of the SAT process will vary according to the needs of the student.

If a parent refers a child for a special education evaluation, the school district should discuss with the parent the use of the student assistance team. The discussion should include information regarding the requirements for a student assistance team, the timelines and the personnel which will be included on the team.

If, after conducting the SAT problem-solving and intervention strategies, the district suspects the child may have a disability, a referral for a special education evaluation must be completed. The school district must seek consent from the parent prior to conducting an evaluation to determine eligibility for special education services. However, parents can request an evaluation at any time during the SAT activities, and the school district must either obtain consent to evaluate and begin the evaluation, or, if the school district declines the parent's request, issue a prior written notice as required by 92 NAC 51-009.05. Additionally, if at any time during the SAT process the district suspects the student has a disability and requires special education and related services, the district must seek consent to conduct an evaluation to determine eligibility for special education services.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ Revised \_\_\_\_\_

### Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)

If the SAT determines that all viable alternatives have been explored after faithfully and consistently implementing the intervention strategies recommended by the SAT, a referral for multidisciplinary evaluation shall be completed in accordance with Rule 51. The MDT is comprised of the student's parent and building staff including such individuals as the school psychologist, general and special education teachers, and related service providers or specialists as appropriate to the content areas causing difficulties for the student.

The MDT will be established to evaluate the child and review all existing educational assessments and other relevant observations to report whether the student has a disability, and if the disability is such that the child is eligible for special education and related services or needs additional or modified special education to meet the goals of the student's IEP or the general goals of the school district's curriculum. An MDT report including the assessment results that were used in determining whether the child is eligible for special education will be shared with the parent or guardian following receipt of consents and issuance of meeting notices as shown below.

The district will utilize a Consent for Initial Evaluation asking for the parent/guardian's written consent to conduct a special education evaluation. The stated purpose of this evaluation will be to determine if the student meets the state and federal criteria as a child with a disability and stating this evaluation must be completed before the student can receive special education or related services.

The district will issue the MDT Meeting Notice inviting the parent or guardian to attend a meeting concerning their student's special education evaluation and potential eligibility for special education and related services. The parent or guardian will be notified of the parent's right to participate in any meeting regarding the student's special education evaluation, individual education plan (IEP), and placement. If the student is already receiving special education and related services, the evaluation information is reviewed every three years.

The IEP Meeting Notice will be utilized to invite the parent or guardian to attend a meeting concerning the student's IEP meeting. It will state that the plan is updated annually, and the parent or guardian has the right to participate in any meeting regarding the student's special education evaluation, IEP, and placement.

### Independent Education Evaluations (IEEs)

When a student's parent requests an IEE, the district's special education director will promptly respond in writing that either an independent educational evaluation will be provided at public expense, or the district will initiate a hearing in accordance with Rule 55 to show that its evaluation is appropriate. The written response will include a copy of this policy and if appropriate, identify at least one qualified individual who is appropriate to conduct the evaluation within the geographic area. These evaluations will become part of the decision-making process.

NDE document “Supporting Document to Checklist of Required Special Education Policies, Procedures and practices for Part B of the IDEA” shall serve as an administrative procedure to this policy. The entire document can be found at <http://www.education.ne.gov/sped/regulations.html>.