

Special Education/Child Find

The PPBOCES believes that parents are the most important people in a child's life both in and out of school. While teachers can change from year to year, parents are the constant connection between children and learning. When children are struggling in school, parents face additional challenges to ensure that their children receive the best education possible. The PPBOCES is committed to working alongside parents throughout their child's years in school. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher, school administration and/or the PPBOCES administration with questions or concerns.

Child Find

Child Find is the phrase used in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA) that defines the process of assessment and identification of children suspected of having a disability. It is the district's responsibility to screen, evaluate and identify children ages 3-21 suspected of having learning or behavior difficulties.

Early Intervention Services-Birth to 3 Years (IDEA Part C)

Parents who have concerns regarding their child's development & reside in one of the PPBOCES member districts may request an evaluation for their child by contacting The Resource Exchange (TRE) @ 719-577-9190 or if residing in Fremont by contacting Starpoint @ 719-275-1950. Once a referral is made the agency (TRE or Starpoint) will contact the PPBOCES Birth-3 year (B-3) coordinator @ 719-570-7474. A district Child Find team conducts an evaluation at the family's home or at the PPBOCES office. If the child is determined eligible, an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) is developed which targets the child's specific areas of concern through the use of home-based services. These services may include physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech language therapy and/or early intervention services.

Transition Services (IDEA Part C to Part B)

Within three months (90 days) of the child's third birthday, a transition meeting is held which includes the family, community agency and the PPBOCES B-3 coordinator. If Part C services are anticipated to continue until the child turns 3, an early childhood Part B (3-5years) evaluation is conducted prior to the child's 3rd birthday. This evaluation assesses current developmental strengths and needs and the potential educational impact. If a child is found eligible for services, an Individual Education Program (IEP) is developed. Services begin in the preschool setting as early as the child's third birthday and are the responsibility of the district within which the family resides.

Services for Children ages 3-5 Years (IDEA Part B)

For children with developmental concerns who have not had early intervention under Part C, parents are encouraged to contact the PPBOCES Early Childhood Coordinator @ 719-570-7474. The district will conduct a screening to determine if further evaluation is necessary. This evaluation will be conducted by the district-based Child Find team and determine eligibility for specialized instruction within one of the thirteen eligibility categories in the state of Colorado. If eligible, an IEP will be developed with parent input and the child will be eligible to begin preschool.

Services for Students ages 5-21 Years (IDEA Part B)

For any student ages 5-21 that is suspected of having a disability, the district will conduct a comprehensive evaluation to determine eligibility for special education. Prior to a special education evaluation, the student may be supported through the school's Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) formerly referred to as Response to Intervention (RTI). Each building utilizes this process to monitor a student's learning and behavior needs through a leveled intervention system. The student may respond well to building interventions and continue within MTSS or may be suspected of having a disability and referred for a special education evaluation. If a special education evaluation is warranted, parent permission will be obtained and the evaluation will be completed within 60 calendar days. The evaluation will be individual and based on identified needs but may include testing in cognition/processing, academic achievement, speech language, fine/gross motor, social/emotional and/or health. Parents who suspect their child is experiencing learning difficulties may initiate a special education referral by calling their school's special education department.

*Child Find services are provided at no cost to families.