

Special Education & Child Find

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Federal law concerning the education of students with disabilities, requires schools to provide parents of a child with a disability with a notice containing a full explanation of the procedural safeguards available under the IDEA and U.S. Department of Education regulations. A copy of this notice must be given to parents only one time a school year, except that a copy must be given to the parents: (1) upon initial referral or parent request for evaluation; (2) upon receipt of the first State complaint under 34 CFR §§300.151 through 300.153 and upon receipt of the first due process complaint under §300.507 in a school year; (3) when a decision is made to take a disciplinary action that constitutes a change of placement; and (4) upon parent request. [34 CFR §300.504(a)]

C-FC provides special education services to students who qualify. Under section 115.777(1)(a) of the state statutes, persons required to make referrals based on student observation include physicians, nurses, social workers, and administrators of social service agencies. School personnel, as well as parents, may also request a referral on behalf of a child.

The school district must locate, identify, and evaluate all resident children with disabilities including those attending private schools, regardless of the severity of their disabilities. The school district has a special education screening program to locate and screen all children with suspected disabilities who are residents of the district and who have not graduated from high school. Upon request the school district will screen any resident child to determine whether a special education referral is appropriate.

****A request may be made by contacting the principal at 608-687-4391, or by writing at S2770 State Road 35, Fountain City, WI 54629. ****

Annually, the district conducts developmental screening of preschool children. Each child's motor, communication, and social skills are observed in various play areas. Each child is weighed and measured, and the child's hearing and vision are checked. The information is used to provide the parent with a profile of their child's current development and to provide suggestions for follow-up activities. Parents learn about community services available to them and speak with representatives of agencies serving families. The information from screening is also used to determine whether a child should be evaluated for a suspected disability. When school staff believe a child has a disability, they refer the child for evaluation by a school district Individualized Education Program (IEP) team. Developmental screening is part of the screening each spring. A physician, nurse, psychologist, social worker, or administrator of a social agency who believes a child brought to him or her for services is a child with a disability has a legal duty to report the child to the school district in which the child resides. Before referring to the child, the person making the referral must inform the child's parent that the referral will be made. The referral must be in writing and include the reason the person believes the child is a child with a disability. A referral of a child residing in the C-FC School District may be sent to the special education director at the school district address.

All records related to a student and maintained by the school district are pupil records. Pupil records include information from screening and special education referral. Records are maintained in ways including, but not limited to, computer storage media, video and audiotape, film, microfilm, and microfiche. Records maintained for personal use by a teacher and not available to others and records available only to people involved in the psychological treatment of a child are not pupil records.