
CHILD FIND FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION AND RELATED SERVICES

All students with disabilities, regardless of the severity of their disability, who are in need of special education and related service(s), residing within the jurisdiction of the Bangor School Department will be identified, located and evaluated according to the specifications of Maine Special Education Regulations Chapter 101. This includes all children residing in the City of Bangor who are between the ages of school-age 5 and 20 years, who may be homeless, state wards, state agency clients, students who have been suspended or expelled, children attending private schools or receiving home instruction, children incarcerated in county jails, children who have the equivalent of 10 full days of unexcused absences or 7 consecutive school days of unexcused absences during a school year, highly mobile children (including migrant or homeless), and children who are suspected of being disabled and in need of special education and supportive assistance even though they are advancing from grade to grade.

The child find responsibility shall be accomplished through a school department process which, while not a definitive or final judgment of a student's capabilities or disability, is a possible indicator of special education needs. Final identification of students with disabilities and programming for such students occurs only after an appropriate evaluation and a determination by the Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team.

This child find process shall include collecting data through multiple measures, including performance on assessments, information regarding the child's gross and fine motor skills, receptive and expressive language skills, vision, hearing and cognitive skills. The Bangor School Department may schedule child find activities during its annual kindergarten enrollment to assist in planning for necessary special education and related service(s) at the start of the school year. If screening occurs in the spring prior to school entry, the Bangor School Department will refer the child to the regional Child Development Services site within 10 school days.

When the child find process indicates that a student may require special education and related service(s) in order to benefit from regular education, the student shall be referred to the IEP Team to determine the student's eligibility for special education services.

School staff, parents, agency representatives or other individuals with knowledge of the child may refer children to the IEP team if they believe that the student, because of a disability, may be in need of special education and related service(s) in order to benefit from regular education. Such a referral should follow Bangor School Department's Referral/Pre-Referral of Students with Disabilities policy. (Policy IGBAC)

The Bangor School Department will coordinate services with Child Development Services to identify, locate, and evaluate those students age 3 through 5 who reside in Bangor that may require service(s). Additionally, Bangor School Department will periodically, through advertisement and publication, notify the community of the availability of services.

References: 34 C.F.R. § 300.111 (2006); Maine Department of Education Reg. ch. 101, IV(2) (2013).

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