

Merced County SELPA

Policy 1.03

CHILD FIND

There is a need to provide appropriate early intervention services, individually designed for infants and toddlers from birth through two years of age, who have disabilities or are at risk of having disabilities, to enhance their development and to minimize the potential for developmental delays (Government Code 95001).

Each district, the county office, or the SELPA shall actively and systematically seek out all students with exceptional needs, ages birth through 21 years.

Regional Centers and local education agencies (LEAs) shall conduct child find activities to locate all infants and toddlers who may be eligible for early intervention services (CCR 52040(a)).

Each Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) submitting a local plan to the superintendent must have in effect policies, procedures, and programs relating to child find and referral. (EC §56205)

The SELPA will publish an annual notice in local newspapers and appropriate social media within the SELPA area to inform parents of their rights relative to special education. Other SELPA or LEA activities may include posting a notice on the LEA website, posting brochures on LEA websites, distributing brochures at special events, doctors' offices and other community agencies.

A parent/guardian, teacher, administrator, support personnel, outside agency, or any other persons who have knowledge that an individual may need special education services may initiate referrals for possible placement into special education.

Referrals shall be processed in a systematic manner, held in strict confidence, and include written notification to the parent/guardian of their rights. Referrals for potential special education services should be completed on a standard agency form and then directed to the appropriate administrator/designee.

Legal References:

State Education Code: 5605 (a)

Federal References: 20 USC Section 1412 (a)(3) (A-B) 34 CFR Section 300.125

Adopted by BOD 11/25/03 Revised 10/27/15
Revised 11/19/19