

GENESEE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Child Find Procedures

Child Find is a program of active outreach by the Michigan Department of Education, Genesee Intermediate School District, and local school districts. Child Find specifically requires the district to identify, locate, and evaluate all children with disabilities, birth through age twenty-five. Child Find includes children who are homeless, wards of the state, migrant children, and those that attend private schools. The primary purpose is to identify children who have a disability that affects his or her progress in the general education curriculum (for preschool-age children that affects involvement in age-level activities). This information is used to determine if the student is eligible for appropriate special education programs and services to address the unique needs of the student that result from the disability. Genesee Intermediate School District, along with the 21 local school districts and the 13 public school academies, have a legal responsibility to provide a free and appropriate public education for all students with disabilities who reside within our districts.

The Genesee Intermediate School District (GISD) Assistant Superintendent for Special Services and the designated special education administrator of each local school district and public school academy will provide information to persons with disabilities, their parents, and other members of the community about the programs and opportunities, required under the law, in their district as well as within the intermediate school district. The Genesee Intermediate School District Assistant Superintendent for Special Services and local special education administrators may use the Special Education Parent Handbook for Genesee County School Districts to provide this information. The Genesee Intermediate School District, the GISD Principal of the Early Childhood Programs and Services (ECPS), and/or the special education administrators from each local school district and public school academy are appointed as the person(s) responsible for coordinating child find activities within the Genesee Intermediate School District. The ECPS principal will work in cooperation with Early On Genesee County to ensure uniform informational items are disseminated throughout the county. Examples of materials and communication items may include radio, television, newspaper advertisements, organizational presentations, social media outreach, and other public awareness activities. Genesee Intermediate School District will include this information on its website.

Any parent, physician, agency, or individual may refer a child to Child Find by written request or by contacting the Assistant Superintendent for Special Services located at 2413 West Maple Avenue Flint, MI 48507 or by calling 810-591-4494, and requesting an evaluation. They will be referred to their local school district of residence or to the public school academy where the child is enrolled to obtain the evaluation requested. Any written requests received at the GISD, will be date stamped by that office and forwarded via fax or scan and e-mailed to their local school district of residence or to the public school academy where the child is enrolled within 24 hours of its receipt.

School aged students currently enrolled in a school within the Genesee Intermediate School District are provided with multiple tiers of intervention when difficulties arise. The Child Find Team monitors each student's performance through the tiers of intervention. If these interventions do not achieve expected results, the team may refer the student for a special education evaluation. However, at any time the parent may still request an initial evaluation to determine if their child meets eligibility requirements, regardless of the district's use of the multiple tiers of intervention. These interventions cannot be used to delay or deny the provision of an initial evaluation or a free and appropriate education.

All evaluations are coordinated and completed by either the local school district in which the student resides or by the public school academy in which the student is enrolled. Within ten (10) school days of the received written request, the district will respond to the request with a Prior Written Notice (PWN) statement. The PWN statement will include the action that the school district proposes or refuses to take, an explanation of why the school district proposes or refuses action, description of the evaluation data used to determine proposed or refused action, description of other choices that the IEP team considered, description of other reasons why the district proposes or refuses the action, resources for the parents to contact for help in understanding Part B of IDEA, and how a parent can obtain a copy of procedural safeguards. Initial special education evaluations will be completed only after the written parental consent to evaluate is received.

Each student suspected of having a disability will be evaluated by a multidisciplinary evaluation team. The multidisciplinary evaluation team will complete a full and individual evaluation, and make a recommendation of eligibility. The multidisciplinary team is comprised of certified highly qualified staff, such as psychologists, social workers, speech therapists, and other ancillary staff. These evaluators will prepare a report to be presented to the individualized education program team by the designated multidisciplinary evaluation team member who can explain the instructional implications of evaluation results. The report shall include information needed by the individualized education program team to determine the eligibility of the student, the student's present level of academic achievement and functional performance, and any educational needs of the student. The evaluation will be completed and, if eligible, an offer of FAPE (free and appropriate education) will be provided within 30 school days from the date the written parental consent to evaluate is received.

If the child is eligible for special education, a program and/or services will be developed to meet the child's unique needs. Special Education services may include academic programs and/or ancillary support services. Ancillary services may include social work services, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech and language services. Consultation services from social workers, school psychologists, and teacher consultants for students with visual or hearing impairment, or autism, are also available when needed. Programs and services are dependent upon the individual needs of the student.

Within seven (7) school days from the date of the individualized education program team meeting, the local school district or public school academy shall provide the parent with written notice of an offer of a free appropriate public education or determination of ineligibility. The notice shall identify where the programs and services are to be provided and when the individualized education program begins. The parent has 10 school days after receipt of the notice of an initial offer of a free appropriate public education to provide the public agency with written parental consent. The local school district or public school academy will implement the child's IEP within 15 school days from the receipt of consent, unless a later date is agreed upon by the district and the parent. The local school district or public school academy will keep records documenting its compliance with all program requirements as identified in all rules and regulations. These services will be documented by the local special education administrator.

Additional information and details regarding Child Find and Special Education programs and services can be obtained by contacting Cherie Wager, Assistant Superintendent of Special Services, at 810-591-4494. The GISD Special Education Services administrative offices are located at 2413 West Maple Avenue, Flint 48507.