

## WHAT IS CHILD FIND?

Federal, state and local regulations require all Ohio schools to conduct annual child find activities. Child Find is the process of locating, evaluating, and identifying children with suspected disabilities who may be in need of special education and related services.

## WHY IS THERE CHILD FIND?

The Wadsworth School District is obligated to locate and evaluate all children, ages three through twenty-one, within the district, with suspected disabilities. Although many school aged disabled children are identified and currently being served by the Wadsworth School District, pre-school children, ages three through five, with disabilities may be unidentified because parents may not be aware that programs and services are now available through Wadsworth City Schools.

## WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF CHILD FIND?

- To promote public awareness of disabilities.
- To alert parents, professionals and the public to children who may have special needs.
- To assist school districts in finding children who may have disabilities and who otherwise may not have come to their attention.
- To enable children and families to receive the special education and related services that are needed.

## WHAT DOES A DISABILITY MEAN? UNDER IDEA

For ages three through five – A documented deficit in one or more of the following developmental areas: communication, vision, hearing, motor skills, social emotional/behavioral functioning, self-help skills, and/or cognitive skills.

For ages five through twenty-one – A disability, in this instance, means such conditions as autism, deaf/blindness, multiple disabilities, deafness/hearing impairment, orthopedic impairment, visual impairment/blindness, specific learning disabilities, preschoolers with a disability, emotional disturbance, cognitive disabilities, speech and language impairments, orthopedic and other health impairments or traumatic brain injury.

## UNDER SECTION 504

In addition and in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the American's with Disabilities Act Amendment of 2008, Wadsworth School District is participating in Child Find efforts to locate, evaluate and identify all children who have a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity who may because of disability, need or is believed to need special education, related services or aids or accommodations/modifications. If a parent or guardian suspects that a child may be eligible under this federal definition, please contact the Director of Student Services office.



## WHO CAN HELP?

Parents, relatives, public and private agency employees, and concerned citizens are used to help school districts find any child, ages three through twenty-one, who may have a disability and need special education and related services. If you know of a child in the Wadsworth School District with a suspected disability who is not presently attending school or receiving services from another agency, please contact Joyce Walker, Director of Student Services and Section 504 District Compliance Officer, at 330-335-1319 or [jwalker@wadsworthschools.org](mailto:jwalker@wadsworthschools.org).

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Wadsworth City School personnel will contact the parent/guardian to find out if the child needs to be evaluated for a suspected disability. Free testing is available to families to determine whether or not a disability exists. If a disability need is identified, the child can begin receiving the appropriate special education and related services.

## EARLY INTERVENTION

If you are a parent/guardian of a child aged birth to three years who demonstrates significant delays or deficits in his/her development, please contact the Early Start or Help Me Grow at 1-800-755-GROW (4769)

If you have additional questions or need for additional information feel free to contact the Director of Student Services office.



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## WADSWORTH CITY SCHOOLS

# CHILD FIND



A SEARCH FOR ALL CHILDREN  
WITH DISABILITIES  
(AGES 3 yrs. – 21 yrs.)