

RSU #16 (Mechanic Falls, Minot, Poland)

Policy Code: IHBAC

Adopted: January 2003

Revised: February 2011

Child Find

PHILOSOPHY:

It is the philosophy of the RSU #16 School Board that students in need of special education or supportive services shall be identified in accordance with this policy.

POLICY:

The RSU #16 School Board seeks to ensure that all students within its jurisdiction are identified, located, and evaluated who are school-age (5 through the school year in which they turn 20) and who are in need of special education and supportive assistance – including state wards, state agency clients, students who have been suspended or expelled, students attending private schools and home schools, institutionalized residents, highly mobile students with disabilities, and students who are suspected of being disabled and in need of special education and supportive assistance even though they are advancing from grade to grade.

This Child Find responsibility shall be accomplished through a school-wide 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 Pupil Evaluation Team (PET).

As part of this Child Find responsibility, the RSU #16 School Board shall identify, locate, and evaluate all students enrolled in public school, private school, or home school, including all entering kindergarten students and transfer students at any grade level. The Child Find process shall include obtaining data on each student, through direct assessment or by indirect means of the student's academic performance, gross and fine motor skills, receptive and expressive skills, vision, hearing, and cognitive skills.

If the Child Find process indicates that a student may require special education and supportive services in order to benefit from regular education, the student shall be referred to the PET to determine the student's eligibility for special education services. School staff, parents/guardians, or agency representatives may refer the students to the PET if they believe that the student, because of a disability, may be in need of special education and supportive services in order to benefit from regular education.

Some factors that may be considered when making a referral might include whether the student has accumulated 45 absences during a school year, has been suspended or removed for disciplinary reasons in excess of 10 cumulative school days in the school year, or has experienced an illness, hospitalization, or accident that may indicate a need for

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special education and supportive services. These considerations are guidelines only and do not mandate or preclude referral to the PET.

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY:

The RSU #16 School Board delegates the authority to carry out this policy to the Superintendent of Schools, who shall have the authority to delegate the duties of the policy to the Special Education Director.

REPORTS:

The Special Education Director shall maintain information, process forms and generate the reports necessary to be in compliance with State and Federal Laws.

LEGAL REFERENCES:

34 CFR § 300.125 (1999)

Me. Spec. Ed. Reg. ch. 101 §§ 7.1-7.10 (1999)

SIGNATURE BLOCK:

RSU #16 School Board

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