



Clarke County School District

Child Find Special Education

Clarke County has policies and procedures to ensure that all suspected children with disabilities, including those who are homeless, are wards of the State or are attending private schools, regardless of the severity of their disability, and who are in need of special education and related services, are identified, located and evaluated.

Children birth through age 3

Clarke County fulfills its child find responsibility through referral to the Babies Can't Wait early intervention program operated by the Department of Community Health for children birth through age three.

Preschool children, ages 2.6-5

A representation from Clarke County School District attends all Babies Can't Wait transition meetings for all students which reside in Clarke County. At that meeting, the team determines if an initial evaluation is needed with parent permission. The Clarke County representative schedules the evaluation and staffing meetings with the parent in order to ensure services can be available, if the students qualifies for eligibility in special education, by the date the student turns 3 years old.

In each building, CCSD administrator will set up a Response to Intervention (RTI) team to review the academic progress and results of interventions of individual PK students. The RTI team at the school is responsible for reviewing the data from the Universal Screener and selecting the point at which students will be identified for interventions. Teachers can also refer students to the RTI team for review. If the RTI team suspects a student may have a disability, the RTI team can refer the student with parental permission.

Any child ages 3-5 residing in the school district can be referred for a monthly Child Find screening. Children not currently attending a CCSD PK class can attend Child Find Screenings.

Overview of Child Find Screening:

Preschool Child Find is a federally mandated free resource offered to Clarke County residents ages 2 years 5 months - 6 years old. Preschool Special Education Child Find screenings offer families a service that can assist with identifying potential special education needs, provide educational opportunities with skills instruction, and early intervention education. Physicians, therapists, local preschool or daycare providers, or other entities can initiate a Child Find



Clarke County School District

Child Find Special Education

referral with parental permission. Parents may make a referral at any time. Monthly appointments are scheduled and located at the Early Learning Center.

When to Refer:

Research demonstrates that early intervention in a child's life increases their opportunity for success. Any concern about a child's development is an adequate reason to make a referral to a Child Find Screening. Each child is unique and develops at an individual pace. However, there are milestones that we anticipate children will typically attain by a certain age.

If a child has difficulty around the age of three by demonstrating one or more of the following:

- Has difficulty expressing themselves effectively to be understood by those not in their immediate environment
- Has difficulty understanding language
- Demonstrates repetitive behavior
- Has a difficult time interacting with others
- Demonstrates excessive inappropriate behaviors
- Delayed in sitting, walking, crawling, talking

Day of Screening:

Parent will check in at the registration desk and must provide: child's birth certificate and parent picture identification, as well as information of any previous therapies or support from agencies. If an outside entity provided service this information will be helpful for the team to make recommendations.

Child Find Screening Process:

A multi-disciplinary observation team will be utilized to complete the screening. The Preschool Evaluation Team members include: Special Education teacher, School Psychologist, Speech/Language Therapist, School Nurse, and Social Worker. The child will be given a brief screening evaluation in the following areas: Vision/Hearing, Cognition, Communication, Motor, Self-Help, and Social.

Post-Screening Meeting:

After the screening, the Preschool Evaluation Team will review screening information and make team recommendations. These may include, but are not limited to: no further intervention needed, skill intervention for designated time, or full evaluation. At the conclusion of the skill intervention trial, parents



Clarke County School District

Child Find
Special Education

will meet with members of the Preschool Evaluation team to review information collected and to discuss further direction. If the recommendation warrants a full evaluation, skill intervention may be introduced for the allotted time until eligibility is determined. For full evaluations, parents will be assigned an appointment for evaluation at the post-screening meeting.

Community Notification

Clarke County School District will provide details and dates for Child Find Screenings to community agencies such as doctor's offices, health department, daycares, etc.. Child Find procedures are also published on the Clarke County School District website.

School aged children, ages 6-21

In each building, CCSD administrator will set up a Response to Intervention (RTI) team to review the academic progress and results of interventions of individual students. The RTI team at the school is responsible for reviewing the data from the Universal Screener and selecting the point at which students will be identified for interventions. Teachers can also refer students to the RTI team for review. If the RTI team suspects a student may have a disability, the RTI team can refer the student with parental permission.

Students placed in private schools within Clarke County zone, ages 6-21

Private schools in Clarke County are provided provided with information regarding the evaluation process offered by Clarke County for students in the county. The private school RTI Coordinator will set up a Response to Intervention (RTI) team to review the academic progress and results of interventions of individual students. The RTI team at the private school is responsible for monitoring academic progress and selecting the point at which students will be identified for interventions. If the RTI team suspects a student may have a disability, the RTI team can refer the student for evaluation with parental permission. Clarke County School Director of Psychology is contacted by the private school administrator to schedule a meeting should the RTI team request a referral for initial evaluation.

Interventions Prior to Referral

Student referrals must be accompanied by documentation of scientific, research or evidence based academic or behavioral interventions that demonstrate insufficient rate of progress. Exception: Immediate referral and/or placement can be determined if student has a significant disability in which they cannot access instruction (Deafblind).



Clarke County School District

Child Find
Special Education

Children birth through age 3

Children referred through Babies Can't Wait utilize the interventions provided through the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

Preschool children, ages 2.6 -5

Children not in a current CCSD school can attend Child Find Screenings. At the Child Find Post-Screening meeting, parents will be provided on or two research based interventions to implement with their child. Parents will also be provided with a data sheet to record the progress on the recommended intervention. The parent is responsible for implementation of the intervention and should bring the data to the Eligibility Meeting.

PK Students enrolled in CCSD schools are provided with research based interventions recommended by the school RTI team. The school collects data on progress of the recommended RTI intervention.

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Students placed in private schools within Clarke County zone, ages 6-21

Students enrolled in private schools in Clarke County are provided with research based interventions recommended by the private school RTI team. The private school implements and collects data on progress of the recommended RTI intervention.