

**WINSLOW PUBLIC SCHOOLS
25 MESSALONSKEE AVENUE
WATERVILLE, ME 04901**

CHILD FIND

Winslow Public Schools 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 homeless children, state wards, state agency clients, students who have been suspended or expelled, students attending private schools and home schools, children incarcerated in county jails, children who have the equivalent of 10 full days of unexcused absences or seven consecutive school days of unexcused absences during a school-year, highly mobile children (including migrant or homeless), 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.

Winslow Public Schools is responsible for child find for resident students attending private or public schools through public tuition payments or public contract, and shall meet this duty either through appropriate arrangements with the receiving school unit or through direct child find services by unit personnel or contracted personnel.

This child find responsibility shall be accomplished through a unit-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 Individualized Education Program (IEP Team).

As part of this child-find responsibility, Winslow School Department shall identify, locate and evaluate all students enrolled in public school, private schools, or home schools, including all entering kindergarten students and transfer students at any grade level.

The child-find process shall include obtaining data on each student, through multiple measures, direct assessment, and parent/guardian information regarding the student's academic and functional performance, gross and fine motor skills, receptive and expressive language skills, vision, hearing and cognitive skills. Winslow Public Schools may schedule child-find activities during its annual kindergarten enrollment to assist in planning for necessary special education and related service at the start of the school year. If screening occurs in the spring prior to school entry, Winslow Public Schools will refer the child to the regional Child Development Services (CDS) site within ten (10) school days.

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 IEP Team to determine the student's eligibility for special education services. School staff, parents/guardians, or agency representatives, or other individuals with knowledge of the student may refer students to the IEP Team 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. Such a referral should follow the school unit's pre-referral and referral policy.

ADOPTED: February 3, 1992; **REVISED:** November 4, 1996; May 21, 2003;
REVISED: 1/23/12

SOURCE: Board Policy

