

227.1

**Child Find**

The School supports and complies with all applicable federal and state laws, procedures and policies regarding the School's child find responsibilities. The School will conduct all child find activities for students who are enrolled in the School (its geographical area) so that they are appropriately located, identified and referred for evaluation. Parents or guardians have the right to review their child's records and refuse permission to release information (except as required by, or permitted by, law to be released).

Pursuant to Ohio law, the School is required to perform the same child find duties as city, local, exempted village school districts, and will endeavor to adhere to its responsibilities in a manner that does not duplicate the duties of the city, local, or exempted village school districts.

A Child Find Notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the geographic area covered by the identification activity before any major identification activity.

See the Child Find Notice in **Appendix 227-B**.

*20 USC § 1412 et seq.; OAC 3301-51-03.*

## Child Find Notice

The School must establish and implement procedures to identify, locate and evaluate children who need special education programs and services because of the child's disability. This notice is to help find these children, offer assistance to parents and describe the parent's rights with regard to confidentiality of information that will be obtained during this process

The content of this notice has been written in English. If a person does not understand any of this notice, he or she should contact the School and a copy in his or her native language will be provided.

### Identification Activity

Child find refers to activities undertaken by public education agencies to identify, locate, and evaluate children residing within the School's geographic boundaries, who are suspected of having disabilities, regardless of the severity of their disability, and determine the child's need for special education and related services. The purpose is to locate these children so that a free appropriate public education can be made available. The types of disabilities that, if found, cause a child to need services are a cognitive disability (mental retardation), a hearing impairment including deafness, speech or language impairment, visual impairment including blindness, emotional disturbance, orthopedic impairment, autism, traumatic brain injury, other health impairment, specific learning disability, deaf-blindness, or multiple disabilities, by reason thereof, the disabled child needs special education and related services.

The School is required to annually provide notice describing the identification activities and the procedures followed to ensure confidentiality of personally identifiable information. This notice is intended to meet this requirement.

Identification activities are performed to find a child who is suspected of having a disability that would interfere with his or her learning unless special education programs and services are made available. The activities include review of group data, conducting hearing and vision screening, assessment of student's academic functioning, observation of the student displaying difficulty in behavior, \_\_\_\_\_ [insert additional child find activities performed by the School]. Input from parents/guardians is also an information source for identification. After a child is identified as a suspected child with a disability, he or she is evaluated, but is not evaluated before parents/guardians give permission for their child to be evaluated.

### Confidentiality

If after screening a disability is identified, upon parent/guardian permission the child will be evaluated. A written record of the results is called an education record, which is directly related to the child and is maintained by the School. These records are considered personally identifiable to the child.

The School will gather information regarding the child's physical, mental, emotional and health functioning through testing and assessment, observation of the child, as well as through review of any records made available to the School through the child's physician or other providers of services.

The School protects the confidentiality of personally identifiable information. The School will inform the parent/guardian when this information is no longer needed to provide educational services to the child and will destroy the information at the request of the parent/guardian.

The parent/guardian of the child has a number of rights regarding the confidentiality of the child's records. The parent/guardian has the right to inspect and review any education records related to the child that are collected, maintained, or used by the School. The School will comply with a request to review the records without unnecessary delay and before any meeting regarding planning for the child's special education program (IEP meeting), and before a hearing should there be a disagreement about how to educate the child who needs special education. In no case, may the school take more than 45 days to furnish the opportunity to inspect and review the child's records.

The parent/guardian has the right to an explanation and interpretations of the records, to be provided copies of the records if failure to provide the copies would effectively prevent exercising the right to inspect and review the records, and the right to have a representative inspect and review the records.

Upon request, the School will provide a list of the types and the location of education records collected, maintained, or used by the agency.

The parent/guardian has the right to request amendments on their child's education records that they believe are inaccurate or misleading, or violate the privacy or other rights of the child. The School will decide whether to amend the records within a reasonable time of receipt of the request. If the School refuses to amend the records, the parent/guardian will be notified of the refusal and right to a hearing.

Parent/guardian consent is required before personally identifiable information contained in a child's education records is disclosed to anyone other than officials of the School collecting or using the information for purposes of identification of the child, locating the child and evaluating the child or for any other purpose of making available a free appropriate public education to the child. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Additionally, the School, upon request, discloses records without consent, to officials of another School in which the child seeks or intends to enroll.

When a child reaches age 18, the rights of the parent/guardian with regard to confidentiality of personally identifiable information is transferred to the student.

Complaints alleging failures of the School with regard to confidentiality of personally identifiable information may be filed with:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202-4605

The School will be providing ongoing screening services. If you wish to learn more, have questions, or believe your child may need to be identified, please contact the School.

## **Child Find**

### **IDENTIFICATION EFFORT**

The 1997 Amendments to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act mandates that every school district in the country develop a system to identify children with disabilities, birth through age 21, who live in the district. The law requires each district to conduct a "vigorous" search for children with disabilities. The rule adopted by the Ohio Board of Education directs that, in addition to a three-year intensive search, school districts must conduct an annual in-school effort to identify and provide service to children with disabilities.

The Academy of Arts and Sciences/Lorain Preparatory Academy will continue its effort to identify children with disabilities. The Academy of Arts and Sciences/Lorain Preparatory Academy will continue to conduct an intensive awareness campaign to identify and evaluate children with disabilities under the age of twenty-two. The assistance of all is needed to accomplish this task.

Any child that you suspect has a disability should be referred to the child's building principal or special education teacher, and can be reached at (440) 244-0156. The individuals will provide information about the differentiated referral system.

Few legislative mandates of the federal government have such far-reaching implications for local school districts. The Academy of Arts and Sciences/Lorain Preparatory Academy is committed to working with the community in providing services that meet the individual needs of each child. We request your cooperation and assistance in meeting this challenge.

# Academy of Arts and Sciences Lorain Preparatory Academy



## Child Find

A search for Children with

Disabilities

Ages Birth-21

### Lorain Preparatory Academy and Academy of Arts and Sciences

3038 Leavitt Road  
Lorain, Ohio 44053  
(440) 282-3127

201 West Erit Avenue  
Lorain, Ohio 44052  
(440)244-0156

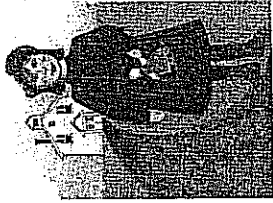
**W**hat is child find?  
Child find is the process of identifying, locating and evaluating children with disabilities who may be in need of special education and related services.

**W**hy is there child find?  
Both state and local education agencies are given the responsibility by federal and state laws to conduct child find activities so that children who need special services have the opportunity to receive those services.



**W**hat 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 needed.



**What does disability mean?**

For age Birth to 3, an established condition known to result in delay, or a documented deficit.

For ages 3-5, a documented deficit in one of more of the following developmental areas: communication, vision, hearing, motor skills, social emotional/behavioral functioning, self-help skills, and or cognitive skills.

For ages 5-21, identification of one or more of the following conditions: autism, deaf-blindness, hearing impairment including deafness, mental retardation, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment traumatic brain injury, visual impairment including blindness.

**W**ho can help? Parents, relatives, public and private agency employees, and concerned citizens are used to help schools find any child, ages birth-21, who may have a disability and need special education and related services. If you are aware of a child who may have special needs, please notify his/her school district. Schools can do their job better with your help.

**T**he sooner we know, the better it goes for every child.

