

The Monhegan School 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, institutional 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 District-wide process which, while not a definitive or final judgment of a student’s capabilities or disabilities, 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 Individual Education Plan Team (IEP Team).

As part of this child find responsibility, the Monhegan School 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.

Monhegan School shall provide child find during the first 30 days of the school year or during the first 30 days of enrollment for transfer children. Monhegan School 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 unit or school or through direct child find services by unit personnel or contracted personnel.

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 language 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 IEP Team to determine the student’s eligibility for special education services. School staff, parents or agency representatives 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.

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

Legal Reference: 34 CFR § 300.125 (1999)

Me. Dept. of Ed. Reg. Ch. 101 §§ 7.1-7.10 (1999)

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