

10 THINGS EDUCATORS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CHILD FIND AND REFERRAL

	Key Point about referral	Explanation of key point
1	Teachers may refer students for an evaluation.	A teacher may refer a student for an IDEA evaluation based on suspecting the student has a disability, even if the parent has not requested an evaluation.
2	An evaluation request doesn't have to be in writing.	If a parent verbally asks for an evaluation (for example by asking a teacher for the evaluation during a parent teacher conference) educators must respond by referring the student or explaining in a prior written notice why the district is declining to evaluate.
3	The parent doesn't have to use the word "evaluation".	Even if a parent doesn't use the word "evaluation" (ex- he tells a teacher that he wants to know if his son can have an IEP), the parent's question or comment can still amount to a an evaluation request, triggering the duty to respond.
4	Educators must look for signs of potential eligibility.	Administrators and teachers must be proactive in identifying possible IDEA eligible students, rather than waiting for a parent to ask for an evaluation. This means watching for red flags like declining grades and behavior.
5	Child find applies to gifted students.	Child find applies equally to gifted students where there is a reason to suspect the student has a disability and needs special education and related services.
6	Districts must formally respond to parent requests.	Even if the district doesn't believe that a student needs to be evaluated, a PWN must be provided explaining why there is a refusal to evaluate.
7	Districts may attempt pre-referral interventions.	Educators may try to address a child's struggles with general education interventions before referring a student.
8	District may not delay a referral to provide RTI or MTSS.	A district may not delay a referral or evaluation to provide pre-referral interventions if there is a reason to suspect the child has a disability OR if the parent requests an evaluation.
9	Child find applies to private school students.	District must seek out children with disabilities enrolled by their parents in private schools in the district's jurisdiction by consulting with private school representatives.
10	Not referring a child may deny a FAPE	Failing to meet Child find requirements is serious and can deny FAPE to a student whom a district should have referred for an evaluation.