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## Child Find

The South Delta School District is participating in an ongoing statewide effort to identify, locate and evaluate children, birth through the age of twenty-one, who may have a physical, mental, communicative and/or emotional disability. I'm requesting that personnel in your office/agency refer individuals twenty-one years or under who may have a disability or is in need of special education and related services to me, LaDonna Sias, the Child Find Coordinator for the district.

Child Find requirements apply to:

- $\sqrt{1}$  Highly mobile children with disabilities (such as migrant and homeless children) and;
- $\sqrt{}$  Children who are suspected of having a disability and may be in need of special education, even though they are advancing from grade to grade.

Once a referral is made it is the responsibility of the Child Find Coordinator to assure that the Referral-To-Placement process is implemented. The Child Find Coordinator works with the Multidisciplinary evaluation team (MET) at each school to implement this process.

Prior to evaluation, Written Notice for Initial Evaluation as well as a copy of Procedural Safeguards is given to parents and explained in its entirety to ensure parents understand their rights as a parent of a student with a suspected disability. After parental consent for testing is obtained, a nondiscriminatory evaluation is conducted. A qualified person will evaluate the student in all areas related to the suspected disability.

When a student ages 3 through 21, is determined eligible to receive special services, parents are notified. Before the student receives special education services, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) is developed and parents' sign consent for placement. Parents, teacher(s) and students, and all other appropriate staff, participate in the process. All students receiving special education services are reevaluated every three years, and their Individualized Education Program is reviewed and revised at least annually.

Please contact me if you know of individuals who need to be referred. LaDonna Sias, Ed.S. South Delta School District Office of Special Education 662-873-6225 ext.2 Isias@southdelta.k12.ms.us