

## **CHILD FIND**

### **What is Child Find?**

The purpose of Child Find is to identify, locate, and evaluate children and youth, birth to age 21, who are suspected of, or have a disability or developmental delay. Pelham City Schools serves children ages 3 through 21 with identified special education needs.

### **How can children be referred?**

A referral may be made by anyone who has a concern about a child's development. All referrals are considered confidential. The parent retains the right to refuse services. Children may be referred by any of the following:

- Parents/legal guardians/foster parents
- Other family members
- Physicians/health care providers
- Preschool programs
- School system personnel
- Community agencies
- Private school personnel
- Others who are concerned about a child's development

### **When should a child be referred to Child Find?**

A child should be referred when:

- A health or medical disorder interferes with development or learning.
- A child seems to have difficulty seeing or hearing.
- A child appears to have social, emotional or behavioral difficulties that affect his/her ability to learn.
- A child has diagnosed progressive or degenerative condition that will eventually impair or impede the child's ability to learn.
- A child seems to have difficulty understanding directions like others that are his/her age.
- A child's speech is not understandable to family or friends.
- A child has difficulty with reading, math, or other school subjects.

### **What is Special Education and who is eligible for services?**

Special Education is instruction designed to meet the unique learning strengths and needs of individual students with disabilities from birth through age 21. A child must be evaluated and identified as having a disability to be eligible for Special Education and/or related services. Programs are provided for students in all disability areas recognized by the State of Georgia. Disability categories are:

### **Where can I find out more about Child Find?**

For a preschool aged child, with a chronological age of 3 through 5, who has or may have a developmental disability please contact Shauwan Daniels Carter at 229-294-8715.

Parents of students, kindergarten through 12th-grade, who suspect their child may have a disability, should contact Kimberly NeSmith at 229-294-8715.