

PELHAM CITY SCHOOLS 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 the Special Education Director at 229-294-8715.

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