

The Charleston County School District's Child Find activities include **free developmental and academic screenings and evaluations, if appropriate** for students residing in or being educated in Charleston County who have not been previously identified as students with disabilities under IDEA Part B or Part C.

Screenings are offered for children from age 2 years, 9 months to age 21 for students who are not enrolled in public school. Parents of children enrolled in public school should consult school staff to obtain information regarding school-based Child Find activities.

Preschool and School-age appointments are offered monthly when school is in session.

**Location: St. Andrews Middle School
721 Wappoo Road
Charleston, SC 29407**



To schedule an appointment:

Call: 843-958-2700

e-mail: childfind@charleston.k12.sc.us

What Is Child Find?

Child Find is a mandate of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act that requires states to identify, locate, and evaluate all children with disabilities ages 3 to 21. It is a continuous process of public awareness activities to locate, refer, and identify children as early as possible.

Screenings are offered for children from age 2 years, 9 months to age 21 who are not enrolled in Public School but reside in Charleston County. Students enrolled in Public School should contact the student's teacher, School Psychologist, or Principal at the school to discuss educational concerns.

What Services Are Available?

The Charleston County Preschool Child Find office provides developmental screenings and evaluations, if appropriate, for preschool children residing in Charleston who are not enrolled in Charleston County early childhood programs. For children who have not previously been identified through Part C of IDEA, developmental screenings are scheduled from September to April.

If the child is identified as a student with an educational disability, specialized instructional services will be offered to address the child's developmental, functional, and academic needs. Related services are considered if there is a reasonable basis to suspect that specialized support services, such as speech/language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, are required for the student to participate in developmentally appropriate activities or to make progress in school.

Who Can Refer Children to Child Find Screening Services?

- Parents of preschool children who are not enrolled in a public school program and who have concerns about their child's development;
- Health care providers, community agencies, child care programs, private schools, and social workers with written parental consent;
- Parents of school-age children (ages 5 to 21) not enrolled in a public school program who suspect an educational disability.

What is the Process?

- A screening is scheduled and conducted on designated days each month. Child Find screening may include direct screening of the child's hearing, vision, speech, developmental skills, and/or academic skills as well as a parent interview.
- The Child Find Screening staff will obtain and review private evaluations and/or information from private providers with parent permission.
- The Child Find Screening Staff will review screening results and information from providers and provide recommendations to parents; a Special Education Referral will be made if an educational disability is suspected.
- If an educational disability is suspected, the parent is invited to an Evaluation Planning Meeting to determine the developmental, functional, and academic areas that will be included in the evaluation and to obtain parental consent for evaluation. Due to circumstances surrounding COVID-19, these meetings are currently taking place virtually, unless an in-person meeting is requested.

- Once parental consent for evaluation is obtained, the Evaluation Team conducts the comprehensive evaluation and invites the parent to an Eligibility Determination meeting to review evaluation results and discuss SC Eligibility Criteria for a student with an educational disability.
- If the child has characteristics of a disability, the Eligibility Determination team must determine if the disability has a significant adverse impact on the child's ability to participate in developmentally appropriate activities and/or the child's ability to make educational progress. Furthermore, the team must consider whether specialized instruction is required to ensure the child can participate in developmentally appropriate activities or make progress in the general curriculum.
- When a child is found eligible for special education services, the District will request parental consent for the provision of special education services.

- An IEP team will develop an (IEP) Individualized Education Program or an (ISP) Individual Service Plan (only for eligible students who are parentally placed in a private school) to describe the instructional and related services that the child requires to participate in developmentally appropriate activities or to make educational progress in school.