

Child Find

Each local educational agency (LEA) must implement the state policies and procedures for protection of confidentiality of any personally identifiable information, collected, used, or maintained under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B. Each LEA must also assure, through the Part 1, LEA Implementation Agreement for Special Education in Oklahoma, that confidentiality procedures will be in accordance with Oklahoma state law and federal regulations. Personally identifiable information includes, but is not limited to: the child's name, parent name or other family member, address, social security number, student number, personal characteristics, or other information that would make the child's identity easily traceable.

Special education records will be kept in the special education classroom and will be secured in a locked area. All confidential records will be kept in a separate folder and not in the child's regular school cumulative folder. Special education teachers, gen ed teachers, administrators, therapists, psychologists, counselors, parent/guardians, eligible students over 18 years old, or any other person who has a legitimate educational interest and who are responsible for educational services for students with disabilities, may have access to the records when they have a legitimate educational interest. Unauthorized persons must have written parental permission to access the confidential records. In each student's file, a form will be kept showing a record of who saw the records, on what date, and the purpose.

With changing times in education, the Oklahoma State Department of Education would like to inform parents about **child find opportunities**. "All children with disabilities, residing in the state, whether attending public or private schools, should be identified, located and evaluated." In Oklahoma we require that child find apply to all children age 3 to 21 years who are suspected of having a disability and are in need of special education and related services.

We want to make everyone aware of this service that is provided to children with disabilities free of charge throughout the State of Oklahoma. If you would like more information on child find, contact Soper Public School, Angela Pierce, at 580-345-2211 or the Oklahoma State Department of Education, Special Education Services at 405-522-3248 for more information. Help to find our children the education they deserve.