The School Board recognizes the responsibility of the district to identify children residing in the district who need special education and related services. As required by law, the Superintendent or designee shall establish written procedures for locating children with exceptional needs in order to provide a free appropriate public education to all eligible children. The Board encourages all members of the community to assist the district in its effort to identify the need for special education and related services within the community.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish and implement an ongoing system to identify and locate children, age 3 through 21 years of age, suspected of having a disability who reside within the district, regardless of the severity of the disability. The components and procedures of this system will be detailed in a written Child Find Plan. The Plan shall identify a Child Find Coordinator, address coordination of child find activities, provide for annual public notice, referrals, and screening.

**Child Find Coordinator**

The Superintendent shall appoint a Child Find Coordinator who coordinates the development, revision, implementation, and documentation of the District’s child find system.

**Annual Public Notice**

The Superintendent or designee shall annually inform the community about the right to, and availability of, educational services for children with disabilities. This notice shall inform parents/guardians in writing of the types of qualifying disabilities, the educational needs of children with disabilities, the rights of children to a free appropriate public education, the services available to these
CHILD FIND (continued)

children, confidentiality protections, and the district’s procedures for initiating a referral for assessment to identify individuals who need special education services.

Referral

**Note:** Pursuant to 34 C.F.R. § 300.300, amended effective 2009, a school district may, but is not required to, pursue a due process hearing when a parent or guardian refuses to consent to an initial evaluation or re-evaluation. However, a school district may not pursue a due process hearing if a parent refuses consent to special education services.

The Superintendent or designee shall implement a procedure to receive referrals of children suspected of having a disability for which special education and related services are needed. There shall be no discrimination with respect to sex, race, religion, color, national origin, gender identity, disability, sexual orientation, or any other classification protected by law in referring students for evaluation. Referrals will be acted on without undue delay.

The school district shall obtain the informed written consent of a child’s parent/guardian before conducting an initial evaluation or placing the student in a special education program in the district or conducting a reevaluation. If consent is not given for an initial evaluation, and the district believes it should proceed with the assessment, it may initiate due process hearing procedures in accordance with law to determine whether the district can proceed with an evaluation.

(cf. 1400 - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)
(cf. 6172 - Special Education)

**Legal Reference:**

**ALASKA STATUTES**
14.30.191 Educational evaluation and placement
14.30.274 Identification of exceptional children

**ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE**
4 AAC 52.100 Child find
4 AAC 52.200 Parental consent
4 AAC 52.540 Parental right to
4 AAC 52.120 Evaluation independent evaluation
4 AAC 52.125 Eligibility
4 AAC 52.550 Availability of hearing
4 AAC 52.130 Criteria for determination of eligibility
4 AAC 52.190 Written notice to parent
4 AAC 52.580 Placement of child during proceedings
CHILD FIND (continued)

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20
1232g Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974
1400 et seq. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29
701 et seq. Rehabilitation Act of 1973

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34
99.10-99.22 Inspection, review, and procedures for amending education records
104.35 Evaluation and Placement
104.36 Procedural Safeguards
300.500-300.514 Due process for parents and children

SITKA SCHOOL DISTRICT
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