



Equity. Access. Inclusion. Community.

## Does your Child Need Special Education?

### What is Child Find?

Child Find is the process of identifying, locating, and evaluating children and youth, birth to 22 years of age, who are suspected of having or have been diagnosed with a disability or developmental delay. The school district provides appropriate special education services under Federal and State laws to students with disabilities.

A referral should be made when:

- A health or a medical disorder interferes with the child's development and 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 or interact with others.
- A child has a diagnosed progressive or degenerative condition that will eventually interfere with the child's ability to learn.
- A child seems to have difficulty understanding directions like other children that are his/her age.
- A child's speech is not understood by family or friends.

### What is Special Education?

Special education is a program designed to meet the unique educational needs of individuals with disabilities from birth to 22 years of age who meet the eligibility criteria under the law. It includes specially designed instruction to meet the unique educational needs of a child with a disability, at no cost to the parents.

Special education services may be provided in a variety of educational settings, and services are required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to be delivered in the least restrictive environment.

### Who Is Eligible for Services?

A student must be evaluated and identified as having a disability to be eligible for special education programs and related services. The degree of the student's disability must require special education. The following are the eligibility categories listed in Education code (CCR 3030)

Autism	Visual Impairment
Deafness	Traumatic Brain Injury
Emotional Disturbance	Specific Learning Disability
Orthopedic Impairment	Intellectual Disability

### How Can I refer my child from Special Education?

Referral for assessment needs to be made in writing to the school district in which your child attends or may attend based on your residence. After an evaluation is conducted, an Individual Education Program (IEP) meeting will be scheduled to discuss the assessment results and eligibility for special education and related services. Parent involvement and agreement must be obtained prior to any further action. Information is confidential and the privacy of children and parents is protected.

For children birth to age three, contact the Early Start Program at (818) 246-3841.

For children pre-kindergarten-12th grade, contact your child's school principal or your district's Special Education department.

### Foothill SELPA: Serving the following districts:

Burbank Unified School District  
(818) 729-4449

Glendale Unified School District  
(818) 241-3111, ext. 1205

La Canada Unified School District  
(818) 952-8397

