



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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TO: Local Education Agencies
Non-Public Schools
Federal Schools
Developmental Day Centers
Community Residential Centers
Child Care Resource & Referrals

FROM: Sherry H. Thomas 

DATE: September 30, 2020

CHILD FIND 2020-2021

North Carolina has a continuing Child Find procedure in place to locate all children with disabilities residing in the State, including children with disabilities attending private schools, regardless of the severity of their disability, and who are in need of special education and related services. This effort also includes highly mobile children with disabilities (such as migrant and homeless children) and children who are suspected of being a child with a disability and in need of special education, even though they are advancing from grade to grade. The purpose of this procedure is to enhance public understanding of exceptional children and youth with special needs, to identify and locate the children and youth, and to inform the public of available services.

To make Child Find effective, it is important that local education agencies (LEAs) work cooperatively with the medical community and agencies providing services to children, including health departments, social service agencies, local management entities for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services, and Children's Developmental Service Agencies. Other community programs should also be involved such as area services for the blind and deaf, child care programs, developmental day centers, Head Start programs and private/parochial schools.

To assist in the local Child Find efforts, we encourage the use of every available resource including, but not limited to, television and radio announcements, news releases, posters, and brochures. Enclosed are a limited number of Child Find posters and brochures to post in highly visible areas within your facility or agency. Please ensure that Child Find materials are displayed for easy public access in prominent locations.

Materials may be duplicated, and are available on the Exceptional Children Division website at <http://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/policies/project-child-find>. On the Child Find posters and brochures, LEAs and charter schools should legibly fill in the LEA/charter school name and address, the name of the exceptional children program director/administrator, and the telephone contact number.

If you have questions, please contact Jamie Davis at Jamie.Davis@dpi.nc.gov or 984-236-2593.

SHT/AB/jd

Enclosures

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

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