

## What is Child Find?

Child Find is a component of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) that requires school districts to identify, locate and evaluate all children with disabilities ages 3 to 21 who need early intervention services or special education services. It is a continuous process of public awareness activities, screenings, and evaluations to locate, identify, and refer children as early as possible.

These agencies work with Rhea County Department of Education. If you are concerned about a child you know, please contact one of these agencies.

Tennessee Early Intervention Services  
(TEIS) 1-800-852-7157

Head Start of Rhea County  
423-775-3663

Dayton Early Head Start  
423-939-1005

Juvenile Community Intervention  
Services  
423-570-8058

Early Head Start (EHS)  
800-762-8432 Tennessee  
Association of Mental Health  
Organizations (TAMHO)  
800-568-2642

Tennessee Disability Pathfinder  
800-640-4636

Disability Determination Services  
615-743-7300

Voluntary Pre-K Program  
423-775-7812

Who Can I Contact?

For Rhea County children, contact your  
school principal.

For children under 2.5 years, contact  
TEIS 1-800-852-7157

For children in private schools, contact  
the principal of your child's zoned  
school.

# Is Your Child Struggling In School?



Rhea County  
Department of  
Education

Child Find

## How Does Child Find Work?

The purpose of Child Find is to **identify, locate, and evaluate** those who need special education and related services. A Support Team (S-Team) is a team of school personnel that provides behavioral, social, emotional, academic, and attendance support for your student. The team will determine what resources are needed in order for a student to be successful in the learning environment. A student referred for an S-Team intervention is not necessarily being referred for exceptional education. However, this team may function as an intermediate step between recognition of a problem and formal referral of the student for a comprehensive evaluation.

Have you seen any of the following red flags?

If you are concerned about a child's development, the sooner the delay is discovered, the sooner help can be offered. Voicing your concern is the first step to identifying children who may be in need of intervention. All children grow and develop at different rates. Below is a list of characteristics that may suggest further testing is needed.

### Academics

- Grades dropping
- Progress monitoring data shows little or no progress
- Student has a 504 plan, but benefit is minimal

### Behaviors

- Increasing number of discipline referrals
- Expulsions from school
- Discipline referrals for aggression or disruptive behaviors

### Attendance

- Excessive absences or skipping class
- Chronic illnesses that prevent school attendance

### Social Emotional

- Symptoms of depression and/or anxiety
- Trouble focusing that interferes with educational performance
- Medical professional, therapist, or agency indicates that student needs services.