

# Understanding IDEA & Child Find

# **The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**

## **Federal Law**

**The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a federal law ensuring services to children with disabilities.**

## **Purpose**

**Its purpose is to support educational success and protect the rights of students.**

## **Educator's Role**

**All educators play an essential role in identifying and supporting students with potential disabilities.**

# Child Find: A Legal Requirement

## **1 Legal Mandate**

**Child Find is a legal requirement under IDEA for schools to identify, locate, and evaluate all children who may need special education services.**

## **2 Goal**

**The goal of Child Find is to ensure that students who need support are not overlooked or left without assistance.**

# Teacher's Key Responsibilities

**1**

## **Observe and Support**

As a teacher, your key responsibility is to observe and support students showing academic or behavioral challenges.

**2**

## **Document**

This includes documenting concerns, making observations, and collecting data.

**3**

## **Use Resources**

Use school resources like MTSS to support students.

**4**

## **Collaborate**

Collaborate with special education staff as needed.

# Proper Referral Process



## **Don't Tell Parents to Refer**

**Teachers should not tell parents to refer their child directly to the CSE, as this action violates Child Find.**



## **School's Responsibility**

**If you suspect a student has a disability, it is the school's responsibility—not the parents'—to initiate the referral process.**

# Consequences of Child Find Violations

## Legal Implications

**Violations of Child Find carry legal implications, potentially leading to district liability.**

## Impact on Students

**More importantly, they can negatively impact students by delaying the identification and support they need to thrive academically.**

# Steps to Take When Concerned

**1**

## **Intervene and Progress Monitor**

**When you have concerns about a student, take the following steps: engage in interventions and collect data.**

**2**

## **Discuss Concerns**

**Discuss your concerns with the MTSS team**

**3**

## **Follow Process**

**Follow the school's process for Child Find referrals. This approach ensures compliance with IDEA and provides the student with appropriate support.**