

## Child Find

The Lamar County Board of Education urges parents, service providers, and concerned citizens to contact Child Find, a program to locate, identify, and evaluate individuals with disabilities or individuals from birth to age 21 who are believed to have disabilities. Early intervention in the lives of these individuals may significantly enhance their development and learning potential and can decrease the need for costly special programs.

Early location and identification of individuals with disabilities may also benefit the families as well as the education agencies involved by enabling service providers to plan for the types and degrees of disabling conditions they will be serving. Once individuals with disabilities are identified the education agencies can provide appropriate services and monitor an individual's progress, anticipate their educational needs, and project the need for qualified personnel.

Anyone may make a referral or request information about available educational resources at their local school or education agency or by contacting Thomas Howell, Special Education Coordinator, Lamar County Board of Education at 205-695-7615, or by calling Child Find's toll-free telephone numbers, 1-800-392-8020 for ages 3 to 21 and 1-800-543-3098 (Voice and TDD) for ages birth through 2 years. People who use telecommunication devices for the deaf may also access Child Find by calling the Alabama Relay Services at 1-800-548-2546. The Child Find services are available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. When a call is received, Child Find staff then will put the caller in contact with the appropriate local education agency. Child Find is a service of the state Department of Education through the collaborative efforts of its Division of Special Education Services, local education agencies, and other education agencies. With this campaign and ongoing Child Find outreach efforts, the Department is working to make physicians, social workers, parents, service providers, and the general public aware of the need to identify individuals who have disabilities or who may have disabilities and to refer them to Child Find.

## GIFTED PROGRAM

Gifted students are students who perform at or who have demonstrated the potential to perform at high levels in academic or creative fields when compared to others of their age, experience, or environment. These students require services not ordinarily provided by the regular school program. Students possessing these abilities can be found in all populations, across all economic strata, and in all areas of human endeavor. (Alabama Code 290-8-9.12(1)).

Teachers, counselors, administrators, parents or guardians, peers, self, or any other individuals with knowledge of the student's abilities may refer a student.

Additionally, all second-grade students will be observed as potential gifted referrals using a gifted behavior checklist. For each student referred, information is

gathered in the areas of Aptitude, Characteristics, and Performance. The information is entered into a matrix where points are assigned according to established criteria. The total number of points earned determines if the student qualifies for gifted services. For more information about the Gifted Program, please contact the Lamar County Board of Education, Special Education Department, at 205-695-6195.