

# EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION INFORMATION SNAPSHOTS

## CHILD FIND ACTIVITIES IN SAUs SERVING PRESCHOOL CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES



### Child Find Defined

Child Find is the system for identifying, screening, referring, evaluating, and tracking children who are potentially eligible for early intervention or early childhood special education.

- Child Find systems include all the people and practices involved in locating potentially eligible children and families.
- Both Part C and Part B 619 contain explicit requirements for states to actively identify children and determine their eligibility for services.



### Partners in Child Find

Potential partner agencies and organizations to support public awareness:

Maine DoE, local programs, and school districts	Parent centers and family-serving organizations	Community agencies and programs for underserved & at-risk populations
Childcare, Head Start, PreK programs, Private preschools	Medical professionals (e.g., pediatricians, NICUs, health departments)	Tribal agencies
Home visiting	Child protection, foster care	Local businesses (e.g., laundromats, grocery stores, restaurants, theaters)



### Actions to Take

Conduct public awareness activities to communicate about screening, evaluation, and services; share information about developmental monitoring — meeting milestones; support community screenings; support families to make referrals; and develop awareness of Child Find timelines.



### Reviewing Results

Nationally, Child Find data is collected annually, and approximately 10%\* of the special education population are preschool-aged children with disabilities. A consistent focus on the results of Child Find activities supports earlier identification, outreach to underserved communities, and improved outcomes. Are you finding all your children?

\*[NCES Table 204.70, "Number and percentage of children served under IDEA Part B, by age group and state or jurisdiction: School Year 2022–23."](#)