

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CHILD FIND REGULATION

Sec. 16. Section 10-76d-7 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is amended as follows:

(a)(1) Each board of education shall accept and process referrals for the initial evaluation of a child to determine if the child is a child with a disability from appropriate school personnel, as well as from a child's parents, or from a physician, clinic or social worker, provided the parent so permits, in order to determine a child's eligibility for special education and related services. The State Department of Education shall make available a standard referral form which shall be used in all referrals for the initial evaluation of a child to determine if the child is a child with a disability.

(2) The local or regional board of education shall make available information concerning the procedures for requesting an initial evaluation of a child to all parents and professional staff of such board. Such information shall include, but not be limited to, a description of the general education interventions that are provided to meet the needs of individual children before a referral for a special education evaluation is requested and the special education referral and evaluation process. The information shall identify at least one person in each school building for either parents or professional staff of the board to contact regarding school policies and procedures for special education referrals and evaluations. The board may include such information in the student handbook, on the board's website or in another location to afford parents and staff access to such information.

(3) A parent is not required to submit the standard referral form for a referral. A concern expressed in writing from the parent to supervisory or administrative personnel of the board of education or a teacher of the child that the child may be a child with a disability or a written request that the child be referred for a special education evaluation or the use of other terms which clearly indicate a concern that a child may be a child with a disability and the child should be evaluated for special education shall be accepted by the board of education as a referral. The date of referral for purposes of this subsection and section 10-76d-13 is the date board personnel receive such request. The date of referral is not the date the board referral form is filled out by the board. Each board of education shall develop a process for accepting referrals from parents who cannot put their request in writing.

(b) Before a child is referred to a planning and placement team, alternative procedures and programs in general education shall be explored and, where appropriate, implemented. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, a board of education shall accept a referral for an initial evaluation to determine if a child is a child with a disability and shall convene a PPT meeting to consider the referral to determine if an evaluation of the child is appropriate.

(c) Provision shall be made for the prompt referral to a planning and placement team of all children who have been suspended repeatedly or whose behavior, attendance, including truant behavior, or progress in school is considered unsatisfactory or at a marginal level of acceptance.

(d) If the referral for the initial evaluation is made by someone other than the child's parent, the board shall provide notice of the referral to the parent no later than five days after the referral is received by the board.