

Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Child Find Program

Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired 2019-2020

Child Find is a component of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) that requires states to identify, locate, and evaluate all children with disabilities aged birth to 21, who are in need of early intervention or special education services. Child Find is an ongoing cooperative effort that involves state and local education agencies, parents, the community, professionals, related organizations, and private schools. IDEA requires all states to have a “comprehensive Child Find system” to assure that all children who are in need of early intervention or special education services are located, identified, and referred. In Arkansas, the lead agency for Part C of IDEA Early Intervention Program (children birth to 3 years) is the Arkansas Department of Human Services. The lead agency for Part B/619 (children ages 3-21 years), is the Arkansas Department of Education.

The mission of the Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired is to provide quality education and training for children and young people (birth through age twenty-one) who are visually impaired so they possess the required skills to become personally productive and self-sufficient citizens.

Planning the Local Child Find Program

Geographical Boundaries of ASBVI will be defined as the state of Arkansas.

Activities to be completed by the Child Find Program of ASBVI include but are not limited to the production and dissemination of pertinent referral and contact information of the services provided at ASBVI in all programs reaching children ages birth-21 years old. Attendance and dissemination of brochures/pamphlets and information regarding ASBVI and the Child Find Program of ASBVI at state-wide education conferences as well as publication in a state-wide newspaper publication, social media or other state wide publications as deemed fit by ASBVI administrators and the Child Find Program Committee. Evaluation of the procedures will be conducted annually and will be based on the number of conferences/publications that the information is provided to and disseminated through.

Public Awareness

The ASBVI Child Find Program Committee will coordinate with ADE and Arkansas Special Education Resource Center (ASERDC) on state level activities in which ASBVI can be of service to the population.

ASBVI Child Find Program will also post all information regarding the program and referral process on the ASBVI website. It will also disseminate information annually to the department of human services in each count and the educational co-ops (16 in the state) located within the state boundaries and to the Division of Services for the Blind, medical facilities, the

Arkansas Department of Human Services, Educational Services for the Visually Impaired as well as World Services for the Blind.

Regarding media activities, the Child Find Program of ASBVI will post pertinent information such as meeting dates, program information etc. to the school's website and other social media outlets as deemed appropriate by the program committee as well as ASBVI administration. The awareness campaign will be evaluated annually based on the amount of information disseminated and on what platforms, and by how many referrals are received through this information provided.

Publicity

Publicity will be maintained through contact and publication through the state wide newspaper, Arkansas Democrat Gazette. It will also be accomplished by speaking to groups and providing informational booths at annual education conferences in the state as well as Arkansas Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Information on the Child Find Program will be provided to all school personnel as well as agencies and community as requested/ deemed necessary. Brochures/handouts and other information will also be provided to pertinent medical facilities, educational cooperatives, public schools as well as to DHS and other programs as identified in this manual.

Screening

Screenings will be provided upon the referral process as written below. They will be completed within 30 days of the receipt of the referral in the case of a birth to 3 year old child and within 21 days in the case of a child aged 37 months to 21 years. Community screenings will be held on an as needed basis and can be requested/schedule through Amanda Noles (501) 296-1810. Instruments used will vary on the child and the diagnosis, but will include a visual component. Screenings are also completed via the low vision clinic held on the ASBVI campus each Friday. Data will be collected and maintained by Amanda Noles on the number of children screened and referred as well as the number of children screened and not referred. The effectiveness of the screening program will be taken from the data of number of students referred, number of students screened, number of students placed in a program and number of students deemed not appropriate for the programming. This evaluation will be conducted annually.

ASBVI Procedures after referral is received:

Once ASBVI receives a referral from the appropriate source, they will be divided by age range to the following individuals. The local school district is responsible for contacting ASBVI for interest in services. The school district can contact this program at childfind@asb.k12.ar.us

Shelli Moore: Birth to 36 months

Amanda Noles: 37 months to age 21.

When a referral is received for child ages birth to 36 months the following procedures will take place:

- a. The child's information will be submitted to First Connections via their website. The First Connections Program is a statewide system of services to assist infants and toddlers and their families. Children grow, learn, and develop at different rates and in different ways. Just as children are all individuals, families also have different abilities and needs. The First Connections Program works with families on an individualized basis to assist in locating and coordination services and assistance to enhance not only the child's abilities but those of the family to assist their child.
- b. An Early Intervention Specialist will be contacted to screen the child by an ASBVI employee from the Birth to Three Program to identify what needs the child has now or could develop in the future. This screening will be completed within 30 days of receipt of the referral.
- c. Once the screening is completed, the results will be shared with the parents and discussed as to whether further intervention and specialized services through ASBVI are warranted.
- d. If it is determined that further services are appropriate, the child will be placed in the Birth to Three Program and placed on a caseload to be seen by an Early Intervention Specialist at least once every six weeks, except for the months of June and July.

When a referral is received for the child ages 37 months to 21 years old the following procedures will take place:

- a. The child's local school district will request to hold a referral conference in which an ASBVI administrator will attend.
- b. Student application will be reviewed by the ASBVI Eligibility Committee.
- c. The referring school district will be asked to submit a copy of the student's Due Process Conference in which ASBVI referral was discussed.
- d. The referring school district as well as parents of the prospective student will send the application and other requested materials to the Special Education Supervisor.
- e. The ASBVI Eligibility Committee will review all information to determine 1) if the student is eligible for services at ASBVI and if so 2) whether it appears that the student is receiving a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) from the local district and what modifications to the current IEP need to be implemented to ensure that he/she will receive the most appropriate programming possible at ASBVI.
- f. The Special Education Supervisor will notify the local school district and the student's parent of the decision of the Eligibility Committee.
- g. If the student is admitted, the Principal and program supervisors determine the program placement and tentative enrollment date for the student.
- h. On the day of enrollment, the student and family participate in registration activities.
- i. Routine screenings are completed by every student enrolled at ASBVI in the Low Vision Clinic which is located on ASBVI campus and held each Friday.

- j. ASBVI, the referring school district and the parents or adult student will review the student's educational placement every year at the annual AR/IEP Committee Meeting.
- k. If the child and their parents are not interested in the child attending the ASBVI campus on a daily basis, they will be referred to the Educational Services for the Visually Impaired (ESVI). Contact information is located at the following website and is determined by the child's county in which they reside. www.esvi.org/contactus.html or in person at 1401 W. Captiol Avenue, Suite 425 Little Rock, AR 72201.
- l. If a child is deemed not appropriate for ASBVI due to multiple disabilities or dual sensory impairments they will be referred to the Children and Youth with Sensory Impairments and additional disabilities (CAYSI) project. They can be reached at (501) 682-4221 or located at 1401 West Capitol Ave. Suite 450 Little Rock, AR 72201.
- m. A child who is referred to ASBVI at age 15 or older will automatically be also referred to World Services for the Blind (WSB) which can be located at 2811 Fair Park Blvd. Little Rock, AR 72204. Or by phone at (501) 664-7100. As well as they will be referred to the Division of Services for the Blind (DSB) located at 700 Main St. Little Rock, AR 72201 or reached by phone at (501) 682-5463.

Identification and Evaluation

All referrals will be routed to either Shelli Moore or Amanda Noles as divided by the child's age. Information will be provided to the LEA to assist in arranging for initiation of due process when deemed necessary. Individual evaluations will be conducted as appropriate and as outlined in the Procedural Requirements and Program Standards ADE 2000. Data will be collected and maintained by Amanda Noles on the number of children screened and referred as well as the number of children screened and not referred. This will be a fluid list meaning the most up to date information will be kept electronically and updated intermittently to be printed off and placed in the Child Find Program Binder. The effectiveness of the identification and evaluation program will be taken from the data of number of students referred, number of students evaluated, number of students placed in a program and number of students deemed not appropriate for the programming. This evaluation will be conducted annually.

Highly mobile children with disabilities (Such as migrant and homeless children)

Children who are identified as highly mobile, homeless or migrant will also be assigned to an ASBVI employee based on their age as listed in the previous sections above. Once a child is identified as such and is also identified as having a visual impairment with or without resulting in total blindness, the personnel will coordinate with the district personnel of the local school district to the child to determine needs. Public awareness will be disseminated to shelters and other locations where individuals might reside when homeless, migrant or highly mobile. Data will be collected and maintained by Amanda Noles of the number of students who are highly mobile, homeless or migrant that are screened within the geographic area and determined to have a disability under IDEA. The effectiveness of this program will be evaluated annually based on

the data of number of students referred, number of students screened, number of students placed in a program and number of students deemed not appropriate for the programming who are deemed highly mobile.

Children who are suspected of having a disability and need special education even though they are advancing from grade to grade

A pre-referral committee will be established to include the special education supervisor, Amanda Noles and Lead Principal, Teresa Doan. A review will be conducted to review documented teacher concerns and observations as well as NRT and CRT scores to match grades. Appropriate referrals will be made to the Child Find Program to determine need for special education/interventions. The committee's effectiveness will be evaluated by documenting the number of student reviewed, number of student referred for an evaluation, number of students placed for services and number of repeat referrals.