

What if I do not want the ESS program to send notification information for my child?

While your written consent is not required to send notification information, New Hampshire does allow parents to “opt-out” of sending notification information. Tell your ESS Service Coordinator if you wish to not have the notification information shared.

If I choose to opt-out of notification, does this mean that my child won't receive special education services from the school district later?

Choosing to opt-out of sending notification information does not mean that your child cannot receive special education services from the school district, if they are eligible. As part of transition planning, which begins when your child is 24 months old, you will discuss whether or not to refer your child to the school district to be considered for preschool special education eligibility. Notification is separate from this process.



Understanding
ESS Notification
to Local School
Districts for
Child Find



**NH Department of Health
& Human Services,
Bureau of Developmental Services
Family Centered Early Supports
and Services (ESS)**

&

**NH Department of Education,
Bureau of Special Education**

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NH Family Centered Early Supports and Services (ESS) and preschool special education are both parts of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). ESS is responsible for providing services to eligible children from birth to age three. When a child turns 3, services from ESS end. If the child is eligible, they will receive Preschool Special Education services through the local school district.

In addition, a school district has the responsibility to find, evaluate and identify children who may be eligible for special education services from birth to age 21. This process is called Child Find. ESS is required by IDEA to assist school districts in meeting Child Find responsibilities through a process called Notification.

What is Notification and why is it important?

Notification is the process of informing school districts that a child living in their district is receiving services from ESS. Notification is an important part of the Child Find process and is required under IDEA. It helps school districts plan for children who may need preschool special education at age 3.

What notification information is sent?

Notification information is: **the child's name, the child's date of birth, parent(s) name, and parent contact information**



When is notification information sent ?

Notification information must be sent to your local school district by the Area Agency by your child's 2nd birthday. Ask your service coordinator what age they send notification information.

May I share more information with the school district?

Yes. With your written permission, ESS may share additional information including your child's disability, evaluation or Individual Family Support Plan (IFSP). Sharing this information will be helpful to the school district for planning purposes.

How is notification information used?

Every school district has a policy for how they will use the information. How a school district uses the notification information will depend on their Child Find policies and procedures, but many districts use it to anticipate the number of children who may be referred for special education. Some school districts also use the information to introduce themselves to families by sending a letter or calling. They may send you information on the preschool program and your rights in special education. The school district cannot share the notification information with any other person or agency. Contact your local school district for more information about how they use the notification information.