



Dr. Sandra Carraway
Superintendent

Dr. Jeff Carney
Associate Superintendent

Mrs. Penny Jackson
Assistant Superintendent

Mrs. Michele Sherman
Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Deborah Williams
Assistant Superintendent

Columbia County School District

4781 Hereford Farm Road
Evans, Georgia 30809
(706) 541-0650
www.ccboe.net

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COLUMBIA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT: CHILD FIND PROCEDURES State Rule 160-4-7-.03

The Columbia County School District participates in activities so that all children with suspected disabilities, including those who are homeless, are wards of the State or are attending private schools, regardless of the severity of their disability, and who are in need of special education and related services, are identified, located and evaluated. If eligible, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) is development to meet their unique learning needs.

The Columbia County School District collaborates with Babies Can't Wait (BCW), the Health Department, daycare providers, local churches, physicians and families. Referrals from BCW are processed through a transition meeting. They are scheduled by the child's BCW service coordinator with family and the school district 90 days prior to the child's third birthday.

Babies Can't Wait (BCW) is Georgia's statewide interagency service delivery system for infants and toddlers; birth – three, with developmental delays or disabilities and their families. BCW is established by Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) which guarantees all eligible children, regardless of their disability, access to services that will enhance their development. This program serves children from birth to age 3. Below is the local web address and phone number for Babies Can't Wait. <https://ecphd.com/child-and-adolescent-health/babies-cant-wait/> (706-667-4280)

Referrals for students, who are not enrolled in the Columbia County School District, but who reside in the county, are processed through the Department of Assessment and Student Learning and Support Services (706-541-2723 x5315) in cooperation with the Special Services Office (706-541-2723 x5241).

Many children are born with or acquire physical and/or mental conditions which adversely impact their normal growth and development. Many of these conditions can be helped if parents and others recognize the problem early and seek help. Anyone can help us identify children with special needs, including parents, foster parents, grandparents, teachers, doctors, nurses, counselors, social workers, day care providers, and community members. If you know of a child in Columbia County from birth through age 21 who may have special needs, please let us know so we can get them the help they need to enjoy a brighter future. Call the Columbia County School District Special Services Department at 706-541-2723 and ask for Barbara Wilson if there are concerns about a young child, ages 3-5.

For more information and assistance about free educational services that are available for children with disabilities, simply call the toll-free number for CHILD FIND, 800-282-7552 (V/TDD) or <http://www.childfindidea.org/>.

*Refer to State Board Rule Child Find 160-4-7-.03 - <http://public.doe.k12.ga.us/External-Affairs-and-Policy/State-Board-of-Education/SBOE%20Rules/160-4-7-.03.pdf>.