

# *Rhea County Department of Education*

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**Jerry Levensgood, Director**  
**levengoodj@rheacounty.org**

August 25, 2020

Dear Private School Administrator/Parent:

The reauthorization of IDEA '04 requires Local Education Agencies (LEA) to consult with representatives of private schools and conduct a thorough and complete child find process to determine the number of parentally-placed children with disabilities attending private schools located within the jurisdiction of the LEA. As an LEA, the Rhea County School System is still required under the IDEA to include those students residing in Rhea County who are attending private or home schools in their Child Find efforts and special education services. The purpose of Child Find is to identify all students with disabilities who may be in need of special education and related services.

It is important for us to determine the current group of eligible private and home school students so that decisions can be made as to the types and amounts of special education services that will be provided for this population. Students in private or home schools are only eligible for a proportionate amount of the Federal funds provided for the education of students with disabilities.

At any time, you may contact me at 775-7813, extension 2231, to refer a student who resides in Rhea County whom you suspect may have a disability and be in need of special education services. In order to protect and maintain student confidentiality, please be sure and obtain parental permission before you contact us about a student.

Thank you for your assistance in helping us identify students with disabilities who may be in need of special education. If you have any questions, please feel free to call.

Sincerely,

LeAnn Kelly  
Supervisor, Special Education

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