

## **CHILD FIND NOTICE**

### **What is special education?**

“Special education services are educational services that are specially designed to meet the unique needs of a student with a disability. These services are provided by qualified individuals at no cost to the parent. Special education services can vary a great deal based on the student and his or her needs.” (Maine Department of Education)

Harpswell Coastal Academy recognizes its responsibility to identify all children who may have a disability and require special education. Identification of students with disabilities and programming for the students occurs only after an appropriate evaluation and determination by an IEP (Individualized Education Program) Team.

### **How is a student referred?**

It is the policy of Harpswell Coastal Academy to refer all school-age students suspected of having a disability for an evaluation in the suspected areas of disability. These referrals may be made by professional school staff, by parents and guardians, and by other persons knowledgeable about the child’s educational needs. If you feel your child may have a disability, please contact your student's teacher or school principal.

### **Who Qualifies for Special Education and Related Services?**

A child with a disability is an individual who:

- has reached the age of 5 years
- has neither graduated from a secondary school program with a regular high school diploma nor reached 20 years of age at the start of the school year

- has been observed in the learning environment/classroom setting, and
- has been evaluated and has been determined to have a disability that requires the provision of special education and supportive services

Areas of eligibility include: autism, deafness, deaf-blindness, developmental delay (kindergarten), emotional disturbance, hearing impairment, intellectual disability, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, specific learning disability, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury and visual impairment.