

Facts about Early Intervention Colorado

Early Intervention Colorado is Colorado's overall system of early intervention supports and services for families who have infants or toddlers, from birth through two years of age. Early Intervention Colorado is funded through an annual federal grant under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA). Part C guarantees rights and entitlements for infants and toddlers, ages birth through two years of age, who have significant developmental delays or disabilities or have been diagnosed with a condition associated with significant delays in development and their families.

TRANSITION FROM PART C TO PART B (SECTION 619) OR OTHER APPROPRIATE SERVICES

Authority: IDEA, Part C, 20 U.S.C. 1437(9)(A)-(C)

Policy

A toddler exiting early intervention services receives timely transition planning to support transition to preschool and other appropriate community services by their third birthday.

Procedures

In this context, "transition" is a child and family-centered planning process that occurs when any eligible toddler approaches three years of age and is transitioning from early intervention services into preschool (Part B) services or to other appropriate community services. The transition steps and services necessary to support a smooth transition for a toddler and family are incorporated into the IFSP using the state IFSP form transition plan page (Appendix E). Each child who is exiting early intervention services must have a completed transition plan page in their IFSP.

Transition Process

1. A Community Centered Board (CCB) **notifies** a local educational agency (LEA) for the area in which a child who is potentially eligible for Part B preschool services resides six to nine months prior to the child's third birthday or date for beginning supports and services provided under Part B, whichever occurs first. A child's name, date of birth and parent name, address and phone contact information is released by the CCB to the LEA where the child resides in a timely manner in order to facilitate an LEA contacting parents to determine if they wish their child to be evaluated for eligibility for Part B services.
2. **Transition steps and services** to support a smooth and timely transition when a child reaches three years of age are developed as appropriate to a child and family's needs and documented in the IFSP. The written transition plan includes, at a minimum:
 - a. Evidence reflecting a discussion with the parent(s) regarding the variety of services and other matters related to a child's transition, including a description of how the family is included in the transition process
 - b. Procedures to prepare a child for changes in service delivery, including steps, services and timelines to help a child adjust to, and function in, a new setting
 - c. Old and new evaluation/assessment information
 - d. Steps to exit from the early intervention program, and
 - e. A review of a child's program options for the period from the child's third birthday through the remainder of the school year.

3. A **transition conference** is convened to ensure a smooth and timely transition, no later than 90 days, and at the discretion of all participants, up to nine months, prior to a child's third birthday. Participants in the transition conference include:
 - a. The parent(s)
 - b. Service coordinator, and
 - c. Personnel from the current and future service delivery system.

A CCB obtains approval from the parent(s) in order to convene a conference with an LEA regarding a child who may be eligible for Part B preschool services, or to share additional information about a child's disability and services. A CCB notifies the parent(s) and LEA of the required transition conference during which the transition plan is further developed to address specific issues related to a child's potential eligibility for Part B preschool services. The parent(s), and other required participants, receive written notice at least 10 calendar days prior to the transition conference, a copy of which shall be maintained in the child's record. A CCB is not required to have a determination of Part B eligibility in order to schedule and hold a transition conference. If the LEA fails to attend the meeting, the CCB still conducts the transition conference as scheduled.

4. If a parent does not provide consent to share information with the LEA or to have them participate in a transition conference, then a CCB makes reasonable efforts to convene a conference among the service coordinator, the family, and service providers to discuss other services that may be appropriate for the child to receive.
5. For a child who may not be eligible for Part B preschool services, with the approval of the family, reasonable efforts are made to convene a meeting among the service coordinator, the family, and providers, to discuss other appropriate services that the child may receive.
6. If a child reaches his/her third birthday before the end of the school year, the IFSP team reviews what services are needed and who should provide those services. The LEA is responsible for funding educational services once a child is three years of age. In addition, families are informed about community resources that may be available to support their child's developmental needs during summer months if their child does not qualify for Extended School Year services.
7. The transition planning process begins as soon as possible for children entering early intervention services after the age of two years, six months.
8. Each CCB implements a local interagency operating agreement that describes the roles, responsibilities and procedures for supporting timely transition planning for children with each LEA within the CCB service area.
9. A state level interagency operating agreement is maintained between DDD and the Colorado Department of Education to ensure coordination of transition processes, training and technical assistance to local communities.

Transition Data Documentation

As part of the statewide data system, CCBs document the following:

1. The date of IFSPs with transition steps and services for children exiting early intervention services
2. The date notification to the LEA occurred for children exiting early intervention services who are potentially eligible for Part B preschool services, and
3. The date of the transition conference for children exiting early intervention services and potentially eligible for Part B preschool services no later than 90 days prior to the child's third birthday.