

Talking Points

Early Intervention Policies and Procedures – Transition

While the overall transition process is essentially the same, there are some changes in terminology and the timeline that must be noted.

Potential Eligibility, Notification and Opt-Out

- IFSP teams, which include the family, will determine if a child is potentially eligible for Part B based on their knowledge of current functioning and a review of the RI Part B Eligibility Criteria.
- What EI previously called “referral” (*ie. Informing the LEA that a child was about to begin the transition process and may be potentially eligible for Part B*) is now referred to as “notification” (*ie. EI is notifying the LEA that a potentially eligible child has begun the transition process*) Notification is done by sending page T-1 of the IFSP to the LEA at 28 months or no later than 90 days prior to the child’s third birthday. Again, only for children who have been determined potentially eligible by the IFSP team. Confirmation of this notification must be documented on page T-2 of the IFSP.
- RI had adopted an “opt out” policy which means a parent may choose to “opt out” of LEA and SEA notification. EI does not need to get parental consent to send notification information. The other information that accompanies notification such as the IFSP, Evaluation Information, Transition Progress Summary, etc. does require parental consent which is recorded on the T-1 page.
- The transition process now begins one month earlier (27 months) so that potential eligibility and “opt-out” can be discussed with parents. Parents are given *The Transition from Early Intervention – A Family Guide* and have to the end of the 28th month to decide to “opt-out” or send notification if their child is considered “potentially eligible”.
- Parents who initially “opt-out” and later decide that they would like the LEA and SEA to be “notified” can “opt back in” by informing their Service Coordinator the confirming their choice on the page T-1 of the IFSP. It should be explained that opting out, then back in, may delay transition timelines.

Transition Timelines

- Children determined eligible for EI after 28 months of age will go through this same transition process (including opting out of notification to the LEA) when/if the child is determined eligible for EI. Notification to the LEA occurs when the IFSP is completed unless the family has chosen to “opt-out” of notification.
- For a child determined not to be potentially eligible for Part B services, with the families approval the EI provider must make reasonable efforts to convene a Transition Conference which includes the family, the EI provider and providers of other appropriate services.
- The family must be included in the development of the transition plan which must include:
 - all appropriate steps needed for the toddler and his or her family to exit EI and any transition services that the IFSP team identifies as needed by the child and his/her family
 - a review of program options (Part B, community, etc.) for the child from the third birthday through the remainder of the school year
 - confirmations that: (a) personally identifiable information has been transmitted to the LEA or other relevant agency, and (b) EI has transmitted additional evaluations, assessments, and the IFSP (with parent consent) to the LEA. Confirmation of this information will be done with the T-2 page of the IFSP
- Children who discharge EI earlier than 9 months prior to their third birthday do not require pages T-1 and T-2 to be completed but transition steps and services must be developed and documented in the record. Using the T-2 page of the IFSP may be helpful in organizing this information, but it is not required.
- The Transition Conference and the IFSP meeting to develop the Transition plan may be combined as long as the regulatory requirements for both are met. In Rhode Island the Transition Conference and IFSP meeting to develop the Transition Plan are always combined.
- For children referred less than 45 days before their third birthday an eligibility evaluation is not required. Children referred at this time may potentially be eligible for Part B services and, unless the parent opts out, notification must be faxed to the LEA and the SEA by the EI provider.