

Ohio Early Intervention

# **COVID-19 Transition Guidance**

[www.ohioearlyintervention.org](http://www.ohioearlyintervention.org)

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During the COVID-19 state of emergency, DODD's primary goal is to protect families and Early Intervention Service Coordinators. Health and safety restrictions put in place during COVID-19 may be impacting families involved in the transition process to Part B Preschool Services. This guidance provides information for the EISC agency on how to support families transitioning from Part C to Part B during COVID-19.

### **Prepared by**

Early Intervention Program Consultants

Early Intervention Data and Monitoring Team DODD Training Team

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Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

30 E. Broad Street

Columbus, Ohio 43215



Department of  
Developmental Disabilities



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## **EISC guidance during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

**This guidance is organized around common scenarios that an EISC may encounter while coordinating transition during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

### **The Local Educational Agency (LEA) contact is not available and/or not responding to EISC calls/emails to make a referral and/or schedule Transition Planning Conference TPC**

- There will be a LEA contact spreadsheet available on the Early Intervention website under the COVID-19 guidance section.
- If unable to locate a contact person on LEA list then reach out to the ODE State Support Team Early Childhood Consultant to determine a contact for the School District or the ESC. <http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/District-and-School-Continuous-Improvement/State-Support-Teams/SST-Directory-090919.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US>
- EISC documents all attempts to reach out to the LEA. EISC may wish to attach a delivery and read receipt with their email to verify that it is being received and read.
- If LEA is not available and parent chooses to complete the TPC without the LEA, TPC must occur. EISC documents conversations and enters date into EIDS.
- If the LEA is not available and the parent chooses to wait until the LEA can participate in the TPC meeting, document all conversations and timelines in case notes, including how the TPC will be scheduled as soon as possible. This would be an acceptable noncompliance reason. This is a family reason as the family has chosen to wait for the LEA even though the team was able to move forward with the TPC meeting.
- EISC will ensure the family has contact information for the LEA or a representative from the school district/ESC and provide this to the parent.
- Decisions may be made locally on how to address children who have turned 3 without an Individualized Education Program (IEP).
  - ▶ Child will still be exited from EI
  - ▶ If a local program decides to continue providing any service, this would not be considered an Early Intervention service since EI services end on the child's third birthday and are subject to state and federal mandates, protections, and rules.

### **The LEA requests that the EISC not make a referral to the LEA**

- EISC will ensure Transition timelines occur. EISC will explain to LEA EI requirements around Transition.
- Reach out to the ODE State Support Team Early Childhood Consultant to determine a contact for the School District or the ESC. <http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/District-and-School-Continuous-Improvement/State-Support-Teams/SST-Directory-090919.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US>

### **The LEA is available to participate in the TPC**

- EISC schedule/conduct the TPC timely-send meeting invitation to LEA with parent consent, document all activities in case notes)
- Go to Transition Planning Conference section in the Steps for a Successful Transition document available on the Early Intervention website.

### **The LEA is not able to conduct Evaluation Team Report (ETR).**

- Team will use the transition tips guidance to prepare the child/family to transition to home, or another setting without IEP.
- EISC will document all conversations/activities around transition in case notes.
- EISC will ensure the family has contact information for the LEA or a representative from the school district/ESC.
- Decisions may be made locally on how to address children who are potentially Part B eligible and have turned 3 without an IEP.
- Child will still be exited in EIDS system
  - ▶ If a local program decides to continue providing any service, this would not be considered an Early Intervention service since EI services end on the child's third birthday and are subject to state and federal mandates, protections, and rules.

### **The LEA is able to conduct the ETR virtually and complete the transition process to Part B services**

- Follow current rules and IAA around transition. Document all conversation/activities in case notes.

- Explore itinerate options, summer programming if available.
- EISC will ensure the family has contact information for the LEA or a representative from the school district/ESC.
- Team should/could provide information to family on development, what potentially to look for, and anticipatory guidance activities that parents could be doing with child to encourage child's development.

**Each local school district may be handling TPC/ETR differently due to building closure (COVID-19)**

- If there is a concern around Part C, contact the county's EI program consultant.
- If there is a concern around Part B, contact State Support Team for your region.

**Supporting families transitioning during COVID-19**

- IFSP Team should think of resources that would be appropriate for family during the time period where the child is waiting on school the district to evaluate, for example, outpatient therapy (virtual/in person), online music/ story time through DD or library, OCALI (<https://www.ocali.org/>), eligibility for county board ongoing services such as Service and Support Administration (SSA), and Family Resources.
- IFSP Team should provide information to family on child development, what to potentially look for in the next several months, anticipatory guidance/ strategies and activities that parents could be doing with child to encourage child's development, ideas to increase participation in routines. Make sure family is able to use and has access to any needed assistive technology.
- Decisions may be made locally on how to address children who have turned 3 without an IEP.
- Child will still be exited at age 3 from EI.
  - ▶ If a local program decides to continue providing any service, this would not be considered an Early Intervention service since EI services end on the child's third birthday and are subject to state and federal mandates, protections, and rules.

## **Covid EIDS Guidance**

For children who are in transition and the school district has not made a determination in regard to Part B eligibility at the time of the third birthday, the exit should be entered as "Reached Age 3, Part B Eligibility Not Determined."

TIPS: When LEA has reopened an EIDS report can be run to track the children. The EISC should check in with the LEA to ensure no family is "lost"

## **DODD and ODE Joint Statement on Part C to B Transition**

On June 16, DODD and the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), in collaboration with the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB), released a joint statement on transition to the EI field and local educational agencies about children transitioning from Part C Early Intervention to Part B special education preschool during the pandemic. Please contact your EI program consultant if you have any questions. You can access the joint statement here: <https://dodd.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dodd/about-us/communication/news/news-transitioning-serving-children-disabilities>

## Resources

### State Resources:

<https://dodd.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dodd/about-us/communication/news/news-transitioning-serving-children-disabilities>

<https://ohioearlyintervention.org/data-system>

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/District-and-School-Continuous-Improvement/State-Support-Teams>

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Early-Learning/Preschool-Special-Education>

### Additional Transition Planning resources and guidance:

<https://www.ocali.org/project/CtoBTrainingOpportunity>

### Preschool resources:

Sesame Street: <https://www.sesamestreet.org/>

PBS: <https://www.pbs.org/parents/page/preschool-learning-at-home>

<https://www.bestkidstuff.com/education/best-online-learning-tools-for-kids/>

<https://www.parenting.com/child/10-best-educational-websites-kids/>

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/25-best-websites-teachers/>

<https://mommypoppins.com/kids/20-online-learning-resources-apps-and-games-for-kids>

<https://playtolearnpreschool.us/virtual-preschool/>

<https://playtolearnpreschool.us/virtual-preschool-2/>

<https://www.familyeducation.com/fun/educational-websites/best-learning-websites-toddlers-preschoolers>

<https://www.misshumblebee.com/online-preschool/>