

July 8, 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE PART C COORDINATOR

On June 17, the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) released its annual determinations rating states' implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). I am pleased to report that, for the ninth year in a row, Ohio received the determination of "Meets Requirements," which is the highest available rating. This determination recognizes the hard work of everyone in Ohio's Early Intervention system, especially those of you in the counties who interact directly with the families we serve. Thank you for all of your hard work and your part in receiving a Meets Requirements determination for yet another year! Ohio's Federal Fiscal Year 2023 (FFY23) Annual Performance Report (APR) and determination scoring matrix are available on the [Federal Reporting and Postings page](#) of the Early Intervention (EI) website.

I also wanted to call your attention to the end of this newsletter where we have included two "Did You Know?" updates, which provide reminders about referrals from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) that result in automatic eligibility and the completion of EI-02 - Prior Written Notice and Consent for Development Evaluation and Assessments.

Please feel free to reach out to me at Taylor.Hammond@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov with ideas, questions, or suggestions any time.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Developmental Specialist (DS) Certification Timelines

Effective March 3, 2025, the EI DS certification process transitioned to the Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association's (OCCRRA) Ohio Professional Registry (OPR). Applying for a Developmental Specialist (DS) certification now requires two separate steps:

- 1) Completing a profile in the OPR
- 2) Submitting a DS application

Each of these steps may take up to 30 days to complete.

If a DS does not yet have a completed profile in the OPR, it is critical that the process be started **at least 60 days prior to expiration of their certification**. This timeline is necessary to allow 30 days for verification of education and a current credential (if applicable) in the DS's user profile. See Step 1 of the [DS Application User Guide](#) for instructions for completing an OPR profile.

Once the necessary user profile documents have been verified, the DS is then able to submit a DS application. Registry staff need up to 30 days from the application date to process the application to allow for any questions or to request additional materials that are needed. When the OPR profile process is started fewer than 60 days prior to a DS certification expiration date, the renewal date may be late and result in a period of time when the professional cannot serve as a DS. To prevent potential gaps in certification, professionals are encouraged to complete the profile process in the OPR as soon as possible so that their requirements are verified well before the expiration of their certification.

New DSs also need to allow 60 days to complete the two steps of the application process. To plan for this, please instruct new DSs to complete their OPR profiles as soon as possible. See Step 1 of the [DS Application User Guide for New DSs](#) for instructions for completing an OPR profile.

Early Intervention Data System (EIDS) Move to DCY

EIDS was moved to DCY on June 26. No changes were made to the application and only minor changes were made to the login process. All EIDS users active at the time of the transition automatically had their accounts set up at DCY and should now have an EIDS tile available in OH|ID to access the application. We also added updated instructions for creating a new EIDS account to the [Data System page](#) of the EI website. Email eids@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov with any questions.

2025 EI Family Questionnaire

Thank you for all your efforts in engaging families in the 2025 Family Questionnaire process. We have extended the response timeframe and will now be accepting responses through July 14. After that, we will be cleaning, compiling, and reviewing data, and de-identifying open-ended responses, as applicable. We will then be creating quantitative reports for each county with the results from questions 1 through 13 and comment files that include all open-ended data from respondents in the county. Both reports will be distributed to counties and the quantitative reports will be posted on the EI website.

Did You Know? – Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Referrals and Automatic Eligibility

As a reminder, the contact page in EIDS serves as documentation of eligibility if the referral is from ODH and indicates a diagnosis of elevated blood lead levels (EBLL), neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS), or hearing loss. The EISC must ensure form EI-03 is completed and that there is a copy of the contact page in the child's record.

Additional documentation of the diagnosis is *not* needed in these cases. See the 45-Day Verification Standards on the [Monitoring](#) page of the for additional information.

Did You Know? – Form EI-02

A child assessment must be completed for every eligible child prior to each initial and annual IFSP. A family-directed assessment must be offered, but the parent can decline to participate in the FDA and still receive EI services. When completing form EI-02, EI Service Coordinators (EISCs) must ensure that the appropriate boxes are checked in the “We propose to (check all that apply)” section. At a minimum, the bottom two boxes indicating proposal to conduct both the child assessment and FDA must be checked. If an evaluation is necessary, the box indicating proposal to conduct an evaluation must also be checked. It is important that EISCs carefully review the form to ensure that the parent has initialed the applicable space(s) and signed and dated the form prior to conducting the activities.