

Rhode Island Early Intervention Certification Standards

Policies and Procedures

VIII. Transition

Certified Early Intervention providers are required to develop policies and procedures in compliance with federal regulations to ensure a smooth transition for children from Early Intervention to the Local Education Agency (LEA) and/or appropriate community services and supports. Procedural requirements below have been developed by the Lead Agency and the Rhode Island Department of Education via an Interagency Agreement and provider policies and procedures must at minimum include the following:

EI Notification to LEA and SEA

Early Intervention providers and the Lead Agency (the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services) must send notification of children receiving Part C services who are potentially eligible for Part B services to the appropriate LEA and SEA (the Rhode Island Department of Education).

Definition: "28 months"
Means by the end of the calendar month in which the child turns 28 months

- Notification of children receiving Part C services who are potentially eligible for Part B services is made to the appropriate LEA and SEA at 28 months of age. *Rhode Island Early Intervention Transition Notification and Consent* (Page T-1 of the IFSP) must be completed with the parent and sent to the LEA by the end of the child's 28th month.
- For children determined eligible for EI after 28 months of age but prior to 90 days before their third birthday, notification to the LEA and SEA must occur as soon as possible after Part C eligibility is determined but in no case later than 90 days prior to the child's third birthday. *Rhode Island Early Intervention Transition Notification and Consent* (Page T-1 of the IFSP) must be completed with the parent within 7 calendar days of the IFSP Eligibility Meeting and sent to the LEA within 2 business days of its completion.
- For children determined eligible for EI more than 45 days but less than 90 days prior to their third birthday, notification to the LEA and SEA must occur as soon as possible after Part C eligibility is determined. *Rhode Island Early Intervention Transition Notification and Consent* (Page T-1 of the IFSP) must be completed with the parent within 7 calendar days of the IFSP Eligibility Meeting and sent to the LEA within 2 business days of its completion.
- For children referred less than 45 days before their third birthday an eligibility evaluation is not required. Children referred at this time who may potentially be eligible for Part B services, must be referred to the LEA and the SEA by the EI provider by faxing the child's name, date of birth, parent's names, address, and telephone number to the LEA and SEA. Parental consent is required. In all cases the EI provider will provide contact info for the appropriate LEA for future use.
- For children determined eligible for EI who will be turning three during the summer, notification will occur earlier than 28 months of

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EI Notification to LEA and SEA (Continued)

age and at the discretion of all parties up to nine months before the child's third birthday (27 months of age) but no later than 90 days before the child's third birthday

- Potential eligibility for each child must be decided by the IFSP team based on knowledge of current functioning and a review of the RI Part B eligibility criteria.
- EI providers send notification to the LEA by faxing, mailing or securely emailing (page T-1 of the IFSP) to the LEA. T-1 of the IFSP must include the child's name, date of birth, parents' names, address, and telephone number.
- The Lead Agency must provide notification to the SEA through monthly data reporting which includes the child's name, date of birth, parent's names, address, and telephone number.
- This dual notification must be sent unless the parent chooses to opt-out of notification. Parental consent is not required for such notification and will occur in the absence of an opt out by the parent.
- Parental consent is required in order to include additional relevant documents such as the latest IFSP and evaluation/assessments with the notification to the LEA.
- Confirmation of this notification must be documented on page T-1 of the IFSP.

Rhode Island has an "Opt Out" policy which means a parent may choose to "opt out" of LEA and SEA notification.

- EI providers must inform parents about the transition process including the Opt Out of Notification to the LEA and SEA by the child's 27th month. The *Early Intervention Transition Workbook-A Family Guide* must be given to the family and the opt out policy explained. Parents have from then to the 28th month to decide (See definition of 28th month on Page 1). Children who are determined eligible after the 27th but before 34.5 months are informed about the transition process including the opt out of notification policy when they are determined eligible for EI. Parents have up to 7 calendar days from the IFSP/Eligibility meeting to decide whether to opt out.
- If parents want additional time to decide whether they want to opt out, they must opt out of notification while they make the decision. Parents must be informed that "opting back in" after the end of the 28th month may cause transition timelines to be delayed.

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- Parents who opt out of the notification to the LEA and SEA may do so by selecting and signing the “opt out” option on page T-1 of the IFSP and notification will not occur. Parents may change their mind regarding opting out of notification at any time by informing their service coordinator. The service coordinator will meet with parent who will then sign and date the “withdraw opt out” option on page T-1 of the IFSP.

El Transition Conference

With the family’s approval, a Transition Conference will be convened by EI for all children potentially eligible for Part B services.

- A Transition Conference will be convened by EI for all children potentially eligible for Part B services at 30 months of age.
- For children determined eligible for EI after 30 months of age, a Transition Conference for all children potentially eligible for Part B services must be convened soon as possible, but no later than 90 days prior to the child’s third birthday.
- For children determined eligible for EI less than 90 days prior to their third birthday a Transition Conference with the LEA is not required although the development of a transition plan (page T-2 of the IFSP) with steps and services is required as soon as possible.

Procedural Safeguards Required

Prior Written Notice

Prior written notice must be provided to parents and other participants within a reasonable time frame to ensure they will be able to attend

The purpose of the Transition Conference is to develop a plan for the effective transitioning of child/family as they exit Part C.

Definition: “30 months”

Means by the end of the calendar month in which the child turns 30 months

- The agenda must include a discussion of any services the child may receive from Part B.
- EI will schedule the conference
 - at a time and place convenient for the family
 - in the native language of the family or other mode of communication used by the family unless it is clearly not feasible to do so.
- Participants must include
 - The parent(s), EI service coordinator, and LEA.
 - Other family members as requested by the parent if feasible to do so.
 - An advocate or person outside the family if the parent requests that the person participate.
 - A person or persons directly involved in conducting the evaluation of the child and assessment of the child and family or if necessary that person’s involvement through other means is acceptable such as making pertinent records available at the meeting, or an authorized representative, or by conference call.

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EI Transition Conference

(Continued)

- The EI provider must invite the LEA to the conference, but if for any reason the LEA is unable to attend and it cannot be rescheduled within required timelines (at 30 months for children determined eligible prior to 30 months, and as soon as possible but no later than 90 days prior to age three if determined eligible after 30 months), the EI provider must convene the conference with the family without the LEA. The EI provider must provide parents at the conference with information about Part B preschool services, including a description of the Part B eligibility definitions, state timelines and process for consenting to an evaluation and conducting eligibility determinations under Part B, and the availability of special education and related services. The EI provider must also provide the parent a copy or information on where to find RI Special Education Procedural Safeguards and the town's local Special Education Advisory Committee.

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 at 30 months of age or as soon as possible but no later than 90 days prior to age three if the child has been determined eligible for EI after 30 months of age.

Transition Plan

All children enrolled in EI must have an IFSP meeting to develop a Transition Plan which includes transition steps and services as part of their IFSP.

- A Transition Plan which includes steps and services as part of their IFSP is developed for all children at 30 months of age.
- For children determined eligible for EI after 30 months of age but before 90 days prior to their third birthday, a Transition Plan which includes steps and services as part of their IFSP is developed as soon as possible as but no later than 90 days prior to the child's third birthday.
- For children determined eligible for EI less than 90 days prior to their third birthday, a Transition Plan which includes steps and services as part of their IFSP is developed as soon as possible.
- The family must be included in the development of the plan.
- The plan 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;

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Transition Plan (Continued)

- a review of program options (e.g., discussions about Part B starting date, ESY, community resources) for the child from the third birthday through the remainder of the school year; and
- confirmations that: (a) child find 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.
- Steps must include:
 - Discussions with and training of parents as appropriate regarding future placements and other matters related to the child's transition;
 - Procedures to prepare the child for changes in service delivery including steps to help the child adjust to and function in a new setting;
 - Identification of transition services that the IFSP team determines is necessary to support the transition of the child; and
 - Procedures to gather and provide input regarding child functioning (e.g. RI Transition Summary Form).
- These timelines have been developed to allow sufficient time to initiate Part B services by the child's third birthday (if child is found eligible).
- 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.
- 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.