

Transition to preschool and other programs

Transition Plan

Transition services assist families of toddlers/children with disabilities or developmental delays with a smooth and effective transition from the early intervention program under Part C to the child's next program or other appropriate services, including services that may be identified for a child who is no longer eligible to receive Part C or Part B services.

Transition Notification

The lead agency is required to notify the SEA and the LEA of the area in which the toddler resides "not fewer than 90 days" before the third birthday of the toddler with a disability if that toddler may be eligible for preschool services under Part B Section 303.209(b)(10)(i).

Both 303.09(b) (1) and 303.401 require that the LEA/SEA Notification include the child's name, date of birth, and parent contact information.

If the lead agency determines a child to be eligible for Part C early intervention services between 45 and 90 days prior to the toddler's third birthday, the lead agency must provide the LEA/SEA Notification as soon as possible after the toddler's eligibility determination, no later than 30 days prior to the child's third birthday.

If the lead agency determines that a toddler with a disability is not potentially eligible for preschool services under Part B of the Act, the lead agency, with the approval of the family of that toddler, makes a reasonable effort to convene a conference among the lead agency, the family, and providers of other appropriate services for the toddler to discuss other services that that toddler may receive.

303.209(b) (1) (iii) provides that if a child is referred to the lead agency fewer than 45 days before that toddlers' third birthday, the lead agency is not required to conduct the initial evaluation, assessment, or IFSP meeting and if that child is potentially eligible for preschool services or other services under PART B of the Act, the lead agency, with parental consent, required under §303.414, must refer the toddler to the SEA and the appropriate LEA.

303.209(b) (2) requires the State to ensure that the LEA/SEA Notification is consistent with any opt-out policy that the State had adopted, which would permit a parent to object to disclosure of personally identifiable information. Mississippi does not have an opt-out policy at this time.

Transition Conference and Meeting

Section 303.209(c) states that for a child exiting Part C, the transition conference must be held, with family approval, at least 90 days and not more than nine months (27 months) prior to the toddler's third birthday for children who are potentially eligible for Part B services.

Potentially eligible means a child at 27 months of age that has an active IFSP and is enrolled in Part C.

The IFSP must include the appropriate steps and services to be taken to support the smooth transition of the child in accordance with 303.209 and 303.211 (b)(6), from Part C services to:

- a. Preschool services under Part B to the extent that those services are appropriate.
- b. Head Start, Early Head Start
- c. Child Care Programs
- d. Other appropriate services under the State's option in 303.211 to provide early intervention services to children.

The IFSP team will make individualized determination as to what transition steps are appropriate for each toddler with a disability.

- a. Steps will include discussions with families and training regarding future placements and other matters related to the child's transition;
- b. Steps to prepare the child for changes in service delivery, including helping the child to adjust in a new setting.
- c. Confirmation that the child find information has been transmitted to the LEA or other relevant agency, in accordance with 303.209(b)(and any policy adopted by the State under 303.401 (e)) and, with parental consent if required under 303.414, transmission of additional information needed by

the LEA to ensure continuity of services from the Part C program to the Part B program, including a copy of the most recent evaluation and assessments of the child and family and most recent IFSP developed in accordance with 303.340 through 303.345.

- d. Identification of transition services and other activities that the IFSP Team determines are necessary to support the transition of the child.
- e. Once a toddler with a disability who received services under Part C of the Act turns three and is eligible for Part B preschool services under section 619 of the Act, that toddler may receive services that are provided as either: (1) Part C services by the lead agency under 303.211 (if the state has elected to offer early intervention services to children after age three, and the toddler's parent consents to receipt of services under this option), or (2) services that constitute FAPE either under section 619 of the Act or under section 638 (3) of the Act. However, if the child with a disability receives services under section 619 of the Act, any summer services must be provided, through an appropriate IEP, if the child's IEP Team determines that those ESY services are necessary for FAPE to be provided to that child.
- f. The Service Coordinator serving the child under Part C may participate in the IEP conference per request of the parent. Procedural Safeguard and parent's rights will be issued at this meeting.
- g. In the event of due process proceedings, unless the parent and lead agency agree otherwise §303.430(e)(1) provides that the child must continue to receive the appropriate early intervention services in the setting identified in the IFSP that are consented by the parents.

Coordination with Head Start/Early Head Start, Early Education, and Child Care

MSDH is committed to integrating early learning programs and services into systems that focus on improving the health, social, emotional, communication, adaptive, and cognitive outcomes of children through collaborative efforts with participating agencies.

- a. The lead agency (MSDH EIP) will participate on the Head Start Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care under the Head Start Act in accordance with 303.210(b).

- b. The State Interagency Coordinating Council is permitted to coordinate and collaborate with the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care for children, as described in section 642B(b)(1)(A)(i) of the Head Start Act, 42 U.S.C. 9837b(b)(1)(A)(i), if applicable, and other State interagency early learning initiatives, as appropriate.

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