



State of Arizona
Department of Education

Tom Horne
Superintendent of
Public Instruction



Early Childhood Education Alert

ECSE

September 17, 2010

Hello Early Child Colleagues. I am recycling this Alert. It is slightly updated. Watch for us to update and add the Power Point trainings to our website. Please call if you have questions!

New! Changes for Early Intervention Transitions

The purpose of this alert is for district preschool programs to make changes in data collection for Indicator 12: Early Childhood Transition (In-By-3). The U.S. Department of Education/Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) requires in-by-3 data be reported for the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR). OSEP has clarified the difference between late referral **TO** Part C and a late referral **FROM** Part C. Late referrals **FROM** Part C are no longer deductible. However, late referrals **TO** Part C will need to be counted as they are deductible or will be counted as a regular referral.

Late referrals **TO** Part C are referrals made to AzeIP between the child's age of 2.9 – 3.0. Any children who are referred to Part C during the last ninety (90) days prior to the 3rd birthday will either be deducted from the formula used in the Annual Data Collection or will be considered a regular referral to Part B preschool.

If the referral occurs between 2.9 and 2.10 ½, AzeIP is responsible for determining initial eligibility and developing an IFSP. AzeIP then provides the district a PEA Notification/Referral form. The district begins regular referral timelines, and may attempt to implement an IEP as close to age 3 as possible. The district records the child as an AzeIP transition; however, if the IEP is written after the child turns three it would be deducted as a late referral **TO** Part C. This is important for the district's 100% target for Indicator 12: Early Childhood Transition.

If the referral occurs between 2.10 ½ and 3.0, AzeIP sends the Child Find Referral Form to the district as a regular referral. The district does not include the referral in the Annual Data Collection for Early Intervention Transitions.

Late referrals **FROM** Part C can no longer be deducted from the Annual Data Collection formula. It is imperative that the district work closely with the AzeIP/Part C Service Coordinator and have

written processes and procedures in place. Late referrals **FROM** Part C should be documented in the district’s database to report to Exceptional Student Services (ESS) for the Annual Data Collection, **and email an AzEIP Alert by sending an e-mail to Val James at valerie.james@azed.gov or 602.364.1530.**

Late referral to AzEIP	AzEIP	District
2.9-2.10 ½	AzEIP evaluates and creates an IFSP/transition plan. Sends Notification/Referral to school district. A Transition Conference is not required.	District begins regular referral timelines, counts the child as transitioning, but child is deducted as a “late referral to Part C” if IEP is developed past age three.
2.10 ½-3.0 (45 days prior to 3 rd birthday)	AzEIP refers to the District of Residence using the Child Find Referral Form	District has 45 days to screen and, once they have written parental consent, 60 days to evaluate and determine eligibility. Child is not counted as transitioning student.

Current Data Collection

Districts should check late referrals FROM Part C and determine if they were in fact late referrals TO Part C in preparation for the Annual Data Collection. Some of the specifics in the boxes above will be policy changes in the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA). It is important that your district deduct when the referral was made TO AzEIP in the 90 days prior to the child’s third birthday or not count those children that did not have an IFSP, but are regular referrals from AzEIP. Date of referral TO AzEIP is on the PEA Notification/Referral Form along with the reason for the late referral to the school district. Often it may be “parent/child unavailability”.

NEW Compliance/Verification Changes

In order to verify early intervention transitions, ADE will begin to randomly sample districts by asking for front pages of IEPs for all children who transition from Part C to the school district. It is expected the front pages will have both the child’s birth date and IEP date, and **it is suggested that each district maintain a file of all front pages of the IEPs for children who transition from AzEIP.** Copies of front pages of IEPs for children transitioning from AzEIP should cross reference with the district’s database maintained from July 1st through June 30th of each year.

Regional Trainings are in the process of being scheduled. Watch for a flyer to be sent out or check for all trainings from the Early Childhood Education (ECE) unit of Arizona Department of Education (ADE) at www.ade.az.gov/onlineregistration. Please go to www.ade.az.gov/earlychildhood and to Early Childhood Special Education and to the Early Intervention site to see the power point and handouts from trainings.