



State of Arizona  
Department of Education

Tom Horne  
Superintendent of  
Public Instruction



## Early Childhood Education Alert

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ECSE

March 2009

### **Updates for Early Childhood Special Education – State Performance Plan (SPP) and Annual Performance Report (APR) Indicator 12: Preschool Transition**

**Early Intervention Transitions** – Your area may already be feeling the impact of the budget cuts, layoffs and furloughs of the Arizona Department of Economic Security/Arizona Early Intervention Program (DES/AzEIP) and Department of Developmental Disabilities (DDD). Contact supervisors when necessary, but also proceed with transition planning in order to meet the federal requirement to have the IEP written by a child's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Continue to track your transitioning preschool children including the reason and number of days past the third birthday for late IEPs or students who were determined ineligible past their third birthday.

**State Performance Plan (SPP) Indicator 12 – Preschool Transitions** – is a compliance indicator reported to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) on our state's APR which requires the state and districts to be in 100% compliance. On the February 1, 2009 APR Arizona reported 93% of children previously served by AzEIP had IEPs developed or non-eligibility determined by the child's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday. We are very pleased with our improvement from 63% in 2006 and 82% in 2007, however, the requirement is 100%. Thanks you to everyone that has helped us achieve this progress!!

**Reporting the Data.** Attached you will find the Student Information Assessment Information System (SAIS) instructions and screenshot that your data entry person will use to submit data on June 30, 2009. Please work closely with that person to ensure accurate information. This year you will report all children that reached a "point of referral". At that "point of referral" for the child that **previously received services** from AzEIP, you would provide the family with procedural safeguards and a prior written notice for referral and begin a Review of Existing Data. Late Part C referrals (less than 90 days prior to the child's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday) or parent/child unavailability will be subtracted from the formula and will not be counted against you. Other reasons will be reported but cannot be subtracted from your totals. Range of days past the child's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday will also be reported. Peggy Staples is conducting the Annual Special Education Data Collection Workshops beginning March 11<sup>th</sup> through May 15<sup>th</sup>.

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**Indicator 12 Corrective Action** - Districts that are not at 100% compliance for preschool transitions will be required to meet compliance within one (1) year from the receipt of a letter from the ECSE unit. Correction of non-compliance for districts that demonstrate 90-99% successful Part C to Part B transitions is the completion of a Letter of Assurance with an attached copy of their detailed process and procedures for Part C to Part B transitions. Correction of non-compliance for districts that fall below 90% successful Part C to Part B transitions is three (3) consecutive months of data demonstrating 100% compliance and a copy of their detailed process and procedures for Part C to Part B transitions. **Districts that do not demonstrate compliance within one year will have funds interrupted until such time that compliance is met.**

**AzEIP Alerts.** If you have a delay due to a late referral from Part C (AzEIP) or have other difficulties due to AzEIP please notify Val James at [valerie.james@azed.gov](mailto:valerie.james@azed.gov) to issue an AzEIP Alert. Please don't hesitate to call for assistance. **We are here to help and do not want to see funds interrupted.**

**Data Base.** This is a reminder to use your Preschool Database to track your preschool program's important data. This overall data is important to understand your numbers from year to year (July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>) and will help with administrative support. You may also track information such as number of screenings, number of Head Start referrals, number of evaluations and number of children that did not qualify (DNQ). The creators of e-IEP-Pro have incorporated the database into their program.

**Website.** Please see our website at [www.ade.az.gov/earlychildhood](http://www.ade.az.gov/earlychildhood) for early intervention transition resources. Go to Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) and Early Intervention Transitions (Part C to Part B).

**Technical Assistance.** Please don't hesitate to call if you need assistance with early intervention transitions or any other area of Early Childhood or Early Childhood Special Education. See specific contact information on our website at <http://www.ade.az.gov/earlychildhood/contacts.asp> or call 602.364.1530.