

IX. TRANSITION OF CHILDREN FROM PART C TO PART B PROGRAMS

It is the policy of the State of Iowa that children receiving services through Iowa's Early ACCESS Program for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities (IDEA Part C) experience a smooth and effective transition to Part B or other community services. In keeping with Iowa's history of providing a seamless system for children eligible for special education from birth, the State of Iowa has created a rich network of services for children from birth through five years of age.

The agencies responsible for providing Part C's early intervention services for children from birth to three consist of the Iowa Department of Education (DE) and regional grantees/area education agencies (AEAs), in collaboration with the Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Department of Public Health, and Child Health Specialty Clinics. The delivery of Part B special education instructional and support services to children with disabilities is a cooperative endeavor involving AEAs, local education agencies (LEAs) and local public and private agencies through statutes mandating the education of children with disabilities. Children birth to age three who are determined eligible for special education services have an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) and receive special education services through the AEA or LEA under Part C regulations.

In accordance with Iowa policy, IFSP Teams convene a transition planning conference among the family, IFSP service coordinator, AEA special education representatives, and other appropriate providers at least 90 calendar days and up to 9 months prior to the child's third birthday. The purpose for the transition conference is to establish a written transition plan in order to ensure timely planning of steps and services required under IDEA to support children's transition from Part C to Part B special education or other community services.

Each agency shall establish policies and procedures to meet the transition requirements of IDEA, Iowa Administrative Rules for Early ACCESS and Iowa Administrative Rules of Special Education. For children transitioning from Part C to Part B, Part B special education teams given written parental consent must have completed a full and initial individual evaluation, determined eligibility for special education and developed and implemented an individualized education program (IEP) by the children's third birthday. Eligibility criteria for receiving special education services are described in other policies and are incorporated herein by this reference.

The State of Iowa regularly provides technical assistance to families, multiple agencies, Early ACCESS and early childhood special education personnel to facilitate smooth transitions.