



## Providing Services for Children with VI/DHH Birth to 3 in an Early Childhood Program

Region One ESC

Workshop # 125319 (AM Session) & 122446 (PM Session)

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## Early Childhood Programs Serving Districts/Charter Schools in Region One ESC

### Easter Seals Rio Grande Valley

- McAllen Office 1217 Houston McAllen, TX (956)-631-9171
- Harlingen Office 2422-C E. Tyler Ave. Harlingen, TX (956)-423-9171

**Project Ninos** 5709 Springfield Ave, Laredo, TX (956) 728-1769

### Region One ESC

- Edinburg Office 1900 W. Schunior Edinburg, Tx (956) 984-6131
- Brownsville Office 405 E Levee St, Brownsville, TX (956) 504-9422

## Where do we



Note  
Determine if the referral was from  
Tx. Early Detection and Intervention  
(TEHDI)  
and obtain consent.  
More information on future slide.

### First Phone Call

Enrollment Coordinator (EC), at initial phone call, will determine if DHH/VI red flags are identified. EC will schedule to complete the Release of Information (ROI) for the Local Education Agency (LEA) so that DHH/VI evaluation can be scheduled prior to the initial Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP).

## DHH/VI Eligibility



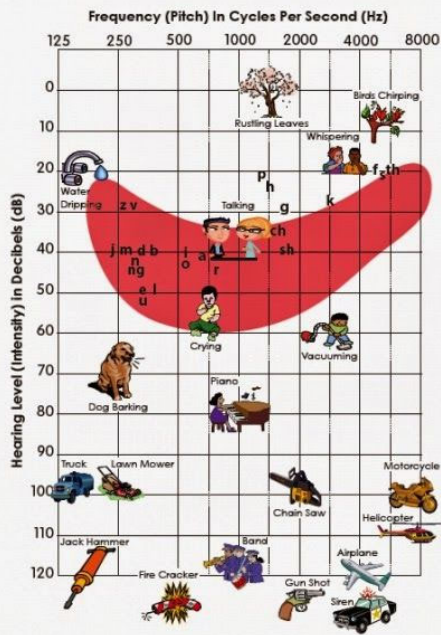
If a child has been identified as having DHH/VI red flags, a teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) and/or a Teacher of the Visually Impaired (VI) must be present with ECI staff to determine DHH/VI eligibility.

ECI staff must have an ROI for the LEA prior to notifying the DHH/VI teacher.

## DHH Simulation



Click on picture to go to video



## ECI's Responsibility

\* If there are **red flags** and no medical records available, complete the ROI for the specialist/s while at the same time getting the ROI for the LEA.

\* If the family has concerns, but the child does not have:  
 a medical specialist and/or  
 a financial barrier




Then, service coordination should be provided to assist the family in accessing both.

ECI staff is ultimately responsible for:



- Ensuring child is seen by a specialist and services are paid for.
- Getting all medical records and submitting those to the LEA.



**RED FLAG**

<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold; color: white;">DHH</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: white;">Speech delay Prematurity Charge Syndrome Down Syndrome Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Oral Motor delay</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold; color: blue;">VI</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Gross motor delay Prematurity Charge Syndrome Down Syndrome Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Oral motor delay</p>
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## Texas Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (TEHDI)

- Newborn hearing screening is mandated by health and safety code chapter 47.
- Optimum time for initial birth screening is after 12 hours of age using Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) and/or Otoacoustic Emission Screens (OAE).

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/tehdi/>

## Texas Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (TEHDI)

NICU infants who do not pass their hearing and screening have a 10 day waiting period for follow up to allow debris in the canal to resolve and late responding hearing mechanisms time to activate.

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/tehdi/>



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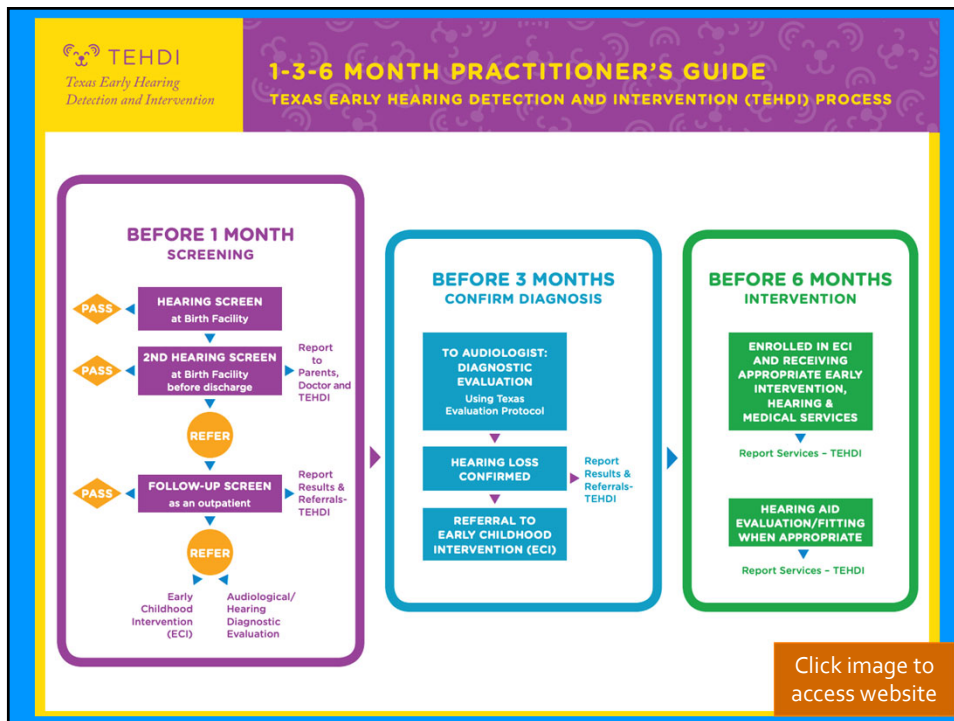


## Texas Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (TEHDI)

Newborns who do not pass their outpatient hearing screenings are referred;

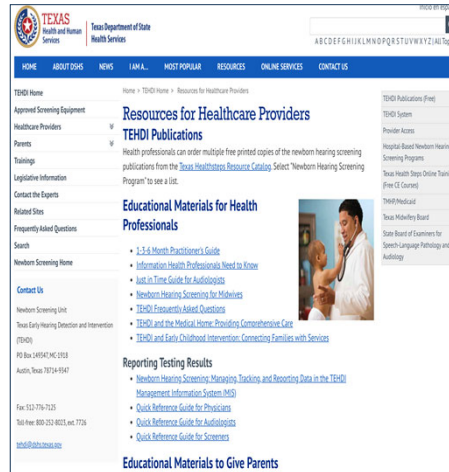
1 – to a Local ECI program in the TEHDI management information system or TEHDI MIS,

2 - a pediatric audiologist for a diagnostic evaluation.



# Suspected Hearing Loss??

If you are needing more resources to advance your educational tool bag, resources for parents or additional training for personnel make sure to review TEHDI's homepage: <https://dshs.texas.gov/tehdi/Audiology-Services-Information-for-Health-Professionals.aspx>

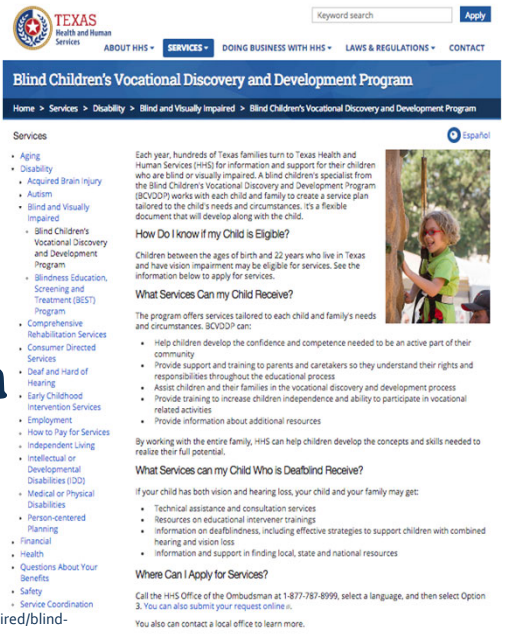


It is best practice to get this process started even if medical documentation is still pending. After the DHH/VI Consultation the early intervention team (which includes parent and teacher), can move forward with medical appointments and getting necessary forms for referral.





To make an DHH/VI Referral ECI staff will get ROIs for LEA and medical professional and then request eye exam for VI referrals and/or both Audiological Report and if available the Otological (ENT) Report for DHH Referrals. For vision referral ECI staff need to get ROI and notify Blind Children's Discovery and Development Program. All forms can be found on the ECI Processes website.



**Health and Human Services Commission website**

<https://hhs.texas.gov/services/disability/blind-visually-impaired/blind-childrens-vocational-discovery-development-program>

The screenshot shows the Texas Health and Human Services website. The main heading is "Blind Children's Vocational Discovery and Development Program". The page includes a navigation menu with options like "ABOUT HHS", "SERVICES", "DOING BUSINESS WITH HHS", "LAWS & REGULATIONS", and "CONTACT". A search bar is located at the top right. The main content area features a "Services" section with a list of categories including Aging, Disability, Acquired Brain Injury, Autism, Blind and Visually Impaired, Blind Children's Vocational Discovery and Development Program, Blindness Education, Screening and Treatment (BEST) Program, Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services, Consumer Directed Services, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Early Childhood Intervention Services, Employment, How to Pay for Services, Independent Living, Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities (IDD), Medical or Physical Disabilities, Person-centered Planning, Financial, Health, Questions About Your Benefits, Safety, and Service Coordination. The main text describes the program's purpose and provides information on eligibility, services, and how to apply.



If client has **NOT** had an eye exam by an ophthalmologist and/or optometrist for VI referral OR had an examination with an audiologist for DHH referral, ECI staff will assist with getting these examinations and the forms completed **before** a referral can be made as LEA will need medical documentation for their records.



DHH/VI teachers can go out and perform their initial evaluation once medical records have obtained and a referral has been made. After the evaluation is complete and services are necessary ECI will schedule with the DHH/VI teacher(s) and caregivers to perform a Complete Review and add services to the IFSP.

- ECI staff will complete the procedural safeguards and consent for evaluations.
- DHH teachers have one evaluation to complete before determining eligibility.
- VI teachers/Orientation & Mobility Specialist (O&M) have 3 separate evaluations to complete before determining eligibility.

## LEA/Part B Responsibility

- Once DHH/VI has been added to a child's IFSP, the child will have to be enrolled in their local school district.
- DHH/VI teachers should provide the family information as to how student will be enrolled in their district
- Each ECI should have an agreement in place with the LEA they serve regarding how to send a referral for processing
- In order to enroll in school, the family will need to provide:
  - proof of residency
  - birth certificate or other approved documentation of identity



\*If the DHH/VI teacher is having trouble getting the infant/toddler enrolled contact the ECI Case Manager to assist with this process.

## Referrals for Infant/Toddler For VI

ECI staff will send the LEA and Blind Children's Program:

- + Release of Information
- + VI Referral Form
- + Eye Exam Report
- + IFSP meetings documentation

## Eye Exam Form Requirements



Must address visual acuity:

- if visual acuity cannot be measured they must give appropriate estimation:
  - legally blind
  - between 20/70 and 20/199
  - better than 20/70
  - functions at the definition of blindness

Visual Field Test

Diagnosis

Prognosis

Must contain a visual statement:

- patient has no vision
- patient appears to have serious vision loss after correction in a clinical setting
- patient does not have a serious visual loss after correction in a clinical setting
- patient has a diagnosis for a progressive medical condition that will result in no vision or serious visual loss after correction.

If you get a report other than the Texas State Eye Exam Report, it must address...



# Texas State Eye Exam Report

**State of Texas**  
Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services

**Interagency Eye Examination Report**

**Patient Information**

Patient's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent's or spouse's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone (optional): \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Attention Eye Care Specialist: Address each item below.**  
 Your thoroughness in completing this report is essential for this patient to receive appropriate services.

**Ocular History**  
 (for example, previous eye diseases, injuries, or operations)

Age of onset: \_\_\_\_\_  
 History: \_\_\_\_\_

**Visual Acuity**

If the acuity can be measured, complete the boxes below using Snellen acuities or Snellen equivalents, or NLP, LP, HM, or the distance at which the patient sees the 20/200 letter.

Without correction:	Near Right: _____	Near Left: _____	Distance Right: _____	Distance Left: _____
With best correction:	Near Right: _____	Near Left: _____	Distance Right: _____	Distance Left: _____

If the acuity cannot be measured, indicate below the most appropriate estimation.

Legally blind 20/200 or worse       Better than 20/70  
 Between 20/70 and 20/199       Functions at the definition of blindness (for example, CVI)

**Muscle Function and Intraocular Pressure**

Muscle function:  Normal     Abnormal    Describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Intraocular pressure reading: Right: \_\_\_\_\_ Left: \_\_\_\_\_

**Visual Field Test**

Type of field test: \_\_\_\_\_ (Confrontation is not acceptable)

There is no apparent visual restriction.  
 There is a visual field restriction. Describe restriction: \_\_\_\_\_  
 The visual field is restricted to:     21 degrees to 30 degrees     20 degrees or less

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## When should you use this form?

- Child has not been seen by the ophthalmologist or optometrist
- Existing report from eye care specialist is missing required information. Obtain ROI and forward this form.

<https://hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/laws-regulations/forms/2001/2001.doc>

## What Do We Do Now?



Once an eye report is received regardless of format, ECI Service Coordinator should get an ROI for the LEA and send the eye report to school designee (will be forwarded to the TVI/O&M)

The TVI/O&M will begin the process of evaluation for visual impairments.

For hearing referrals ECI staff will send LEA :

- \*ROI for LEA
- \*DHH Referral Form
- \*Audiological Report

and if available Otological Report, \*IFSP.

ECI can also get an ROI and notify Texas Hands and Voices.



# TEXAS HANDS & VOICES™

*"What works for your child is what makes the choice right!"*



## Welcome

Texas Hands & Voices (TX H&V) offers support, information and resources in an unbiased manner to families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Our outreach activities, parent/professional/community collaboration, and advocacy efforts are focused on enabling Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing children to reach their highest potential.

Mission: Hands & Voices is a parent driven organization that supports families with children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing without a bias around communication modes or methodology.

Vision: We envision a world where children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing have every opportunity to achieve their full potential.

Motto: "What works for your child is what makes the choice right!"



SUPPORT US



**GUIDE BY YOUR SIDE™**

Guide By Your Side™ is a Hands & Voices program we offer which embodies our strong values of direct peer connections and networking. It promotes self efficacy and hinders isolation by exploring our common bond, shared experiences, challenges, wisdom and insight. Trained Guides provide unbiased



**ADVOCACY SUPPORT & TRAINING**

You can... ASTra... you... resou... IEP pre... informa...



Click on this page to go to the website

<http://www.txhandsandvoices.org/txhv/>

If client has not been seen by an ENT, the DHH teacher can still go out and perform the initial evaluation and services can be added to the IFSP. However, **before DHH services can be delivered**, the Otological Report must be filled out and submitted to the LEA for their records. Keep in mind the 28 day deadline for service delivery.



## The Oto-what?

The otological or ENT report is necessary for ECI and LEA records. The LEA also needs this for medical clearance.

The Early Intervention Team can decide to extend the start date for DHH services pending the Otological or ENT report.

When can the Primary Care Physician sign the otological?

- \*if the appointment with the ENT is more than 30 days out
- \* if their ENT is not accepting medicaid
- \* if the child lives in a remote area
- \* if the child is significantly medically fragile and has medical care provided at their place of residence.
- \*if the parent is unable to attend their scheduled appointment

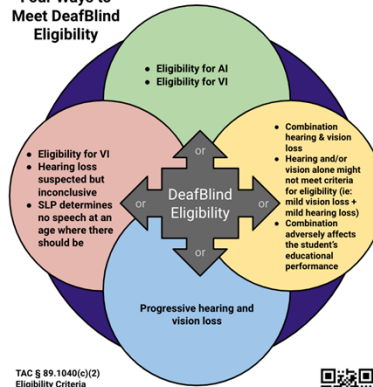
**This is a temporary solution to getting services started until an appointment with the ENT is scheduled. The only exception is a home bound medically fragile child.**

***If the parent cannot pay for an ENT, ECI is responsible for getting the appt. paid for and add a case management outcome addressing the need for financial assistance.***

# DeafBlindness

TAC Code 89.1040 states  
 "A student with deaf-blindness is one who has been determined to meet the criteria for deaf-blindness as stated in 34 CFR, §300.8(c)(2)".

### Four Ways to Meet DeafBlind Eligibility



TAC § 89.1040(c)(2)  
 Eligibility Criteria  
 DeafBlindness

[https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac.spx?sl=R&app=9&p\\_dir=&p\\_rl=&p\\_tloc=&p\\_ploc=&pg=1&p\\_tac=&ti=19&pt=2&ch=89&rl=1040](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac.spx?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rl=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=19&pt=2&ch=89&rl=1040)

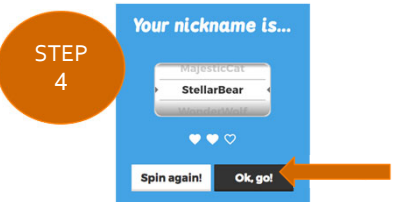
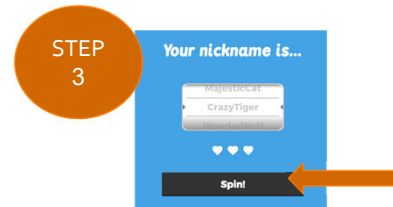


Additional information can be accessed in the ESC Region 11 DeafBlind LiveBinder: [bit.ly/dbeligibility](http://bit.ly/dbeligibility)

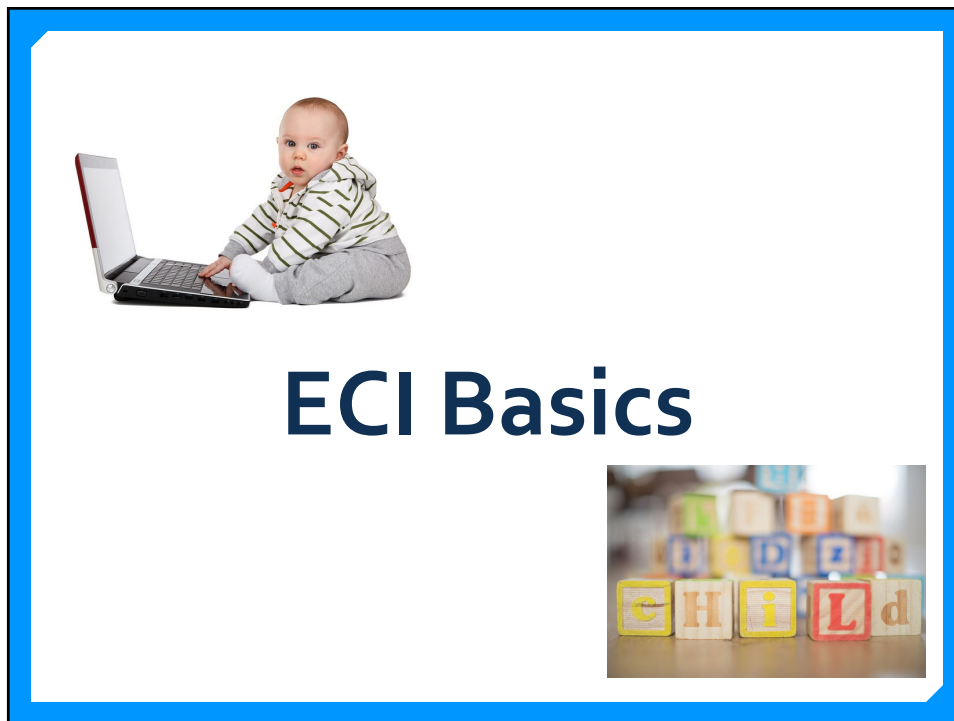
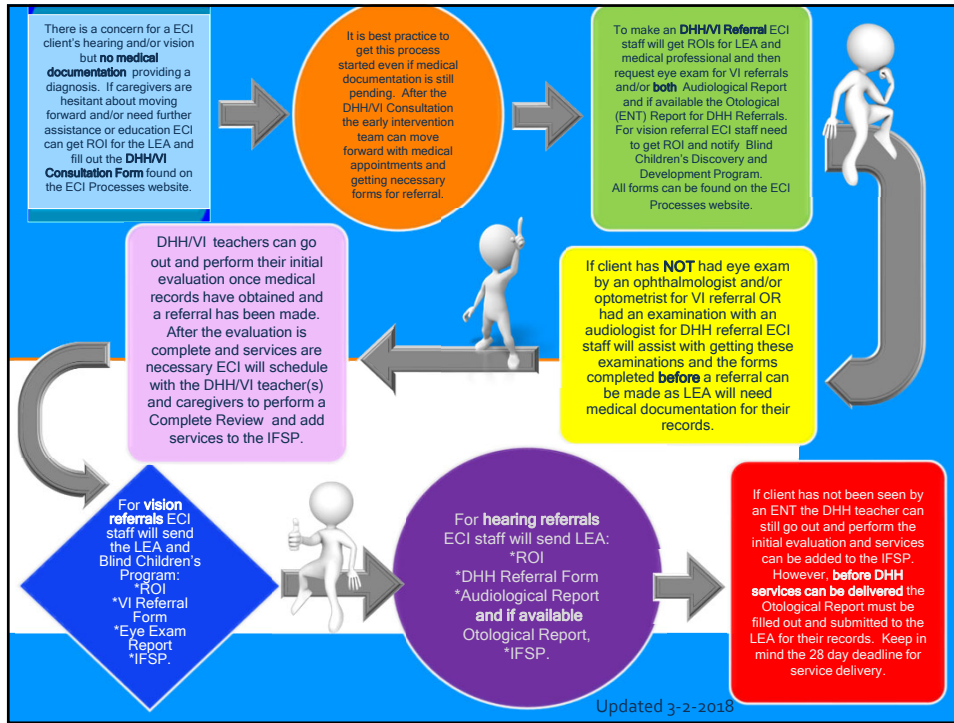
On Your laptops or phones and go to Kahoot.it



STEP 2  
 Join at **kahoot.it** with Game PIN:   
 Type in the number given by your instructor



STEP 5  
**You're in!**  
 See your nickname onscreen?  
 Get ready to play!







## What's The Plan Stan?

All children enrolled in ECI will have an Individualized Family Service Plan or IFSP.

## IFSP

Documents:

- Child's Strengths
- Needs
- Functional Abilities
- Daily Routines
- Priorities
- Services



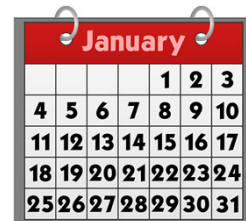
## Six Months and Counting



ECI must comply with Texas Administrative Code (TAC) which states that IFSPs are required to be reviewed every 6 months.

## Heads Up

Texas Administrative Code, requires ECI to notify the TVI, COMS or TODHH at least **10 days prior** to an initial IFSP meeting, periodic review and/or annual IFSP meeting that affects the child's auditory or visual services.



<h2>Part C vs Part B</h2>	
Early Intervention Program IDEA–Part C	Special Education Services IDEA–Part B
<b>Agency</b>	
Lead Agency designated by State	State Dept. of Education
<b>Ages of Children Served</b>	
Children, ages birth to three years of age	Children, ages three through twenty-one years
<b>Calendar Year</b>	
52 Weeks	School Calendar

Early Intervention Program IDEA–Part C	Special Education Services IDEA–Part B
<b>Eligibility Criteria–State <u>MUST</u> serve</b>	
Early intervention services must be provided to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children experiencing developmental delay, or</li> <li>• Children with a condition that is highly likely to result in developmental delay</li> </ul> ... AND by reason thereof, need early intervention.	Special education must be provided to children who fit 1 or more of certain categories of disability  ... AND by reason thereof, need special education.
<b>Progress Updates</b>	
Progress Notes due monthly	Due as often as grades are reported

Early Intervention Program IDEA—Part C	Special Education Services IDEA—Part B
<b>Service Delivery Times</b>	
At parent/legal guardian and/or caregivers convenience which could include evenings and weekends.	Monday Through Friday during school hours
<b>Individualized Plans</b>	
Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The IFSP focuses on the child and the family and the services necessary to enhance the child's development.	Individualized Education Program (IEP) The IEP focuses on the educational needs of the child and related services in the school.
<b>Available Services</b>	
Early intervention services for child and family to meet the <b>developmental</b> needs of the child and increase the family's ability to meet the needs of their child	Special education and related services determined appropriate to meet the <b>educational</b> needs of the child

Early Intervention Program IDEA—Part C	Special Education Services IDEA—Part B
<b>Family Involvement</b>	
Participation on all teams making decisions about the child's individualized plan for services Receive services to improve the <b>family's</b> ability to meet the needs of their child with a disability	Participation on all teams making decisions about the child's individualized plan for services
<b>Location for Services</b>	
Natural Environment-including the home and integrated child care settings.	Least Restrictive Environment—to the maximum extent appropriate, the child receives services and participates in the general curriculum, non-academic, and extra-curricular activities alongside peers without disabilities.
<b>Costs for Services</b>	
States <u>may</u> charge for services (e.g. sliding scale), but must ensure no one does not receive services because of inability to pay.	All services must be provided for free



## Guidance for LEAs

**E**ACH LEA will have policies and procedures for the Child Centered Process Special Education Process, ensuring FAPE for all children eligible with disabilities ages 3 through 21 and from Birth for children with visual and auditory impairments, including timely transition from IDEA C to IDEA Part B

*Operating Guidelines Legal Framework*  
[www.esc18.net](http://www.esc18.net)

## Your Ticket Out the Door (Part 1 and Part 2)

- Start Your Feedback Form (phone, electronic device)
- <https://form.jotform.com/SLSBVI/Region1>

OR



- Do You NEED More Information Now?
- Contact Twinkle Morgan
- Phone: 9560984-615 EMAIL: [tmorgan@esc1.net](mailto:tmorgan@esc1.net)