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News and updates from the
Early Childhood Department



Illinois
State Board of
Education

September 2022

Prevention Initiative

FY 2023 Prevention Initiative Compliance Checklist

The fiscal year 2023 Prevention Initiative Compliance Checklist has been posted on the [ISBE Early Childhood webpage](#). Yellow highlights indicate changes for FY 2023. All programs should ensure that they are meeting compliance requirements each year. Please see the resources on the ISBE Early Childhood webpage for additional information and guidance.

FY 2023 Prevention Initiative Program Monitoring

FY 2023 Prevention Initiative program monitoring notifications were sent at the end of August. All programs scheduled for a FY 2023 monitoring visit should have received an email notification. Emails were sent to the authorized official and program contact as listed in the most recent approved grant. Please contact your authorized official for questions regarding the email monitoring notification.

All monitoring visits will consist of a compliance checklist review and a quality site visit using either the HOVRS for Home Visiting or the ITERS observations for center-based programs. If your program is scheduled for a visit, you will be notified by a representative of the Vander Weele Group LLC to introduce the monitoring process and set the monitoring window. Please contact the Early Childhood Department with any questions.

Prevention Initiative Parent and Outcomes Questionnaire Systems

The Prevention Initiative Parent and Outcomes Questionnaire Systems were updated in FY 2022. Thank you for completing the FY 2022 annual data. The resources for these systems will continue to be available on the [ISBE Prevention Initiative website](#).

- [Prevention Initiative Questionnaire Letter](#)
- [Prevention Initiative Parent Questionnaire Links](#)
- [Prevention Initiative Parent and Outcomes Questionnaire Training Webinar](#)

Preschool for All/Preschool for All Expansion

PFA/PFAE Implementation Manual

The [PFA/PFAE Implementation Manual](#) has been updated on the ISBE Early Childhood webpage. This document is intended to serve as a resource for grant implementation. Please refer to the [PFA/PFAE Compliance Checklist](#) for the most up-to-date grant requirements.

FY 2023 PFA/PFAE Compliance Checklist

The FY 2023 [PFA/PFAE Compliance Checklist](#) has been posted on the ISBE Early Childhood webpage. Yellow highlights indicate changes for FY 2023. All programs should ensure that they are meeting compliance requirements each year.

PFA/PFAE Program Monitoring

FY 2023 PFA/PFAE program monitoring notifications were sent at the end of August. All programs scheduled for an FY 2023 monitoring visit should have received an email notification. Emails were sent to the authorized official and program contact as listed in the most recent approved grant.

All monitoring visits will consist of a compliance checklist review and Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale, Third Edition (ECERS-3) observations. Programs scheduled for a visit will be notified by a National Louis University representative about the three-week monitoring window approximately a month in advance. Please contact the Early Childhood Department with any questions.

Serving English Learners in Preschool Programs

The ISBE Multilingual and Early Childhood departments have collaborated to update an [EC FAQ](#) to provide relevant information about multilingual placement and programming for early childhood students in preschools.

ExceleRate Ratings

ExceleRate ratings have been emailed to all school-based PFA/PFAE programs that were monitored in FY 2022. Please contact earlychi@isbe.net if your school-based program was monitored in FY 2022, but you did not receive the ExceleRate email.

Early Childhood Special Education

Preschool Inclusion

The Early Childhood Department, in conjunction with the state leadership team for the Implementation of Inclusion Technical Assistance Project, has developed a [webinar](#) on funding considerations for inclusive classrooms. Materials that are designed to accompany the webinar, including slides, a transportation FAQ, and graphics, can be found on the [Preschool Inclusion](#) webpage.

Early Childhood Outcomes

The ISBE Early Childhood Department has adopted [criteria](#) for determining allowable primary assessment tools that can be used to compile early childhood outcome progress ratings. The following assessments can **no longer be used** as a primary assessment tool for progress ratings, effective in FY 2023 -- the Carolina Curriculum for Infants and Toddlers/Preschoolers with Special Needs and the Hawaii Early Learning Profile (HELP). Resources for completing the early childhood outcome measurements, including instrument crosswalks, can be found on the [Early Childhood Outcomes](#) webpage. There is also an updated [instruction document](#) and [progress rating form](#). These changes do not impact initial eligibility assessment tools.

Early Intervention to Early Childhood Special Education Transition

Effective July 5, 2022, a new record type was added to the Early Childhood Transition System in the Student Information System (SIS). The new record type can be found in the dropdown menu and is called "Student Not Assigned to a District." This record type includes all records with reason type listed as either 02-Moved before or during transition process OR 07-Address not in district. This record type will allow districts to search for students within the system and assign them to the user's district if completing the transition. Users will use this feature if districts are aware a child is transitioning but not on the district list. The user must enter the student's first name, last name, and date of birth to return record(s). See [this link](#) for screenshots and detailed instructions for how to use this feature.

Kindergarten/KIDS

KIDStech Access Linked to SY 2023 EIS Personnel

The single sign-on process means access to KIDStech is dependent on Employment Information System (EIS) personnel info updates that are required annually by ISBE. That annual process confirms teacher/administrator names, email addresses, and positions for the new school year.

Fall Observation and Evidence Collection

Fall dates are individualized and set based on district attendance calendars. The data entry window for districts opens one week before the 40th day of attendance and will remain open until one week after the 40th day of attendance. Each data entry window is individually set and based on the individual district's attendance calendar.

KIDS Coaching and Training Project Update

ISBE would like to inform you of a delay in securing a new vendor for the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS) Coaching and Training Project. We anticipate that a vendor will be in place by mid-fall.

ISBE's [prerecorded presentations and webinars](#) continue to be available to kindergarten teachers and administrators to support KIDS administration this fall. Additionally, our Early Childhood Department is available to answer questions and provide guidance. Should you have any questions regarding coaching and training, and/or if there is a teacher in your district that requires initial training, please email kids@isbe.net.

Access to KIDStech will continue uninterrupted. The 40-day implementation window also remains in place, requiring teachers to submit KIDS ratings within the first 40 days of school. Should you have any issues or questions regarding KIDStech, please contact assessment@isbe.net.

Please know that we are working diligently to have a vendor in place by mid-fall. We appreciate your patience as we work through the procurement process.

IWAS Student Information System

Data Elements Resources

New resources have been developed for the IWAS Early Childhood SIS Data Elements. Please find the resources at [SIS Training Modules](#).

- [Early Childhood and Programs](#)
- [Early Childhood and Programs Presentation](#)
- [Early Childhood Outcomes](#)
- [Early Childhood Outcomes Presentation](#)
- [Prenatal Record](#)
- [Birth to Three Record](#)
- [Behavior Support and Program Transition](#)
- [PreK \(3-5\) Indicators, Programs & Providers](#)

There was a significant change in the Prenatal Record as of FY 2022. Prenatal records no longer need to be exited at the end of each fiscal year. Learn how to enter and exit prenatal records at [Prenatal Record](#).

Professional Development

STAR NET

STAR NET is entering into a new grant cycle for FY 2023. Roles of professional development projects have been more clearly defined. STAR NET will have a focus on early childhood special education and will no longer be providing training or support on the ECERS tool. Early Childhood Professional Learning (ECPL) will continue to provide support for ECERS. The chart below shows different areas of focus for professional development projects.

	STAR NET	Early CHOICES	PFA/PFAE Training and Technical Assistance
Focus of Training Activities	Support programs in the area of early childhood special education	Support programs in implementing and improving least restrictive environment	Support PFA and PFAE programs in compliance and quality
Examples of Training Activities	Align to DEC Recommended Practices Support Indicators 6, 7, and 12 Support program staff in supporting children with disabilities	Align to DEC Recommended Practices Support Indicators 6 and 7 (as related to Indicator 6) Support program staff in preparing, implementing, and improving inclusive classrooms	Align to Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards Support Compliance Checklist for PFA and PFAE programs Support high-quality environments as defined in ECERS-3

- [DEC Recommended Practices](#)
- [Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards](#)

New Webinars

ECPL has scheduled new webinars for the upcoming school year. Please refer to the [Early Childhood Professional Learning eLearning page](#) for more information.

ECERS-3

This on-demand professional learning opportunity explores the ECERS-3 scale by explaining how the scale is used, how it connects to continuous quality improvement, the scoring procedures, the subscales, and more. Each part consists of self-reflection and action planning with resources provided. [Registration](#) through CPL is required to access this professional learning.

Dates to Remember

- Oct. 20 – First-Quarter Expenditure Reports Due
- Nov. 12 – SIS Enrollment Due
- Dec. 1-2 – KIDS Summit



Let us know how we can help!

Early Childhood Division
217-524-4835 • earlychi@isbe.net
100 N. 1st Street, Springfield, IL 62777

isbe.net



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