



### **Extended Early Intervention Option for Children with Summer Birthdays (May 1-August 31)**

As of January 1, 2022, children whose third birthdays are between May 1 and August 31 may continue early intervention (EI) services until the beginning of the school year if:

- Children receive early intervention prior to their third birthday,
- They qualify for early childhood special education services and an Individualized Education Program (IEP) is developed, and
- Parents/guardians elect to remain in EI.

The Illinois Department of Human Services and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) have collaboratively worked together to facilitate this change.

Utilize the Early Childhood Transition System in the ISBE Student Information System (SIS) to identify students who are potentially eligible for the Early Intervention/Extended Services (EI/ES) option. A new message is at the top of the screen acknowledging this change. Students with birthdays within the eligible timeframe now have a tag next to his or her name indicating potential eligibility for EI/ES option. It is highly recommended that students with birthdays in this timeframe begin the transition process early as more communication is needed from each entity. It is also recommended the eligibility determination and development of the IEP take place at least two weeks prior to the child's third birthday. Furthermore, the school district should ask the parent(s)/guardian(s) if they would like the service coordinator invited to the eligibility determination conference (EDC).

School districts, Child and Family Connections (CFC) offices, and families will need to work collaboratively together and maintain communication throughout the process to facilitate this change. It is recommended that, although the CFC will begin conversations about the EI/ES option, that school districts continue to have those conversations throughout the evaluation process so families are ready to make a decision at the EDC. Each entity will have specific responsibilities to facilitate this transition.

The CFC will:

- Communicate with the family about transition, including the EI/ES option, and share [the EI/ES Parent Information Notice](#).
- Indicate on Transition Tracking Form if the family has expressed interest in the EI/ES option and send district referral packet.
- Schedule and notify school district of the transition planning conference.
- Have the service coordinator attend the EDC, if possible, to be present for the family's decision regarding EI/ES services and have proper consent signed.
- Notify family that once the child exits EI, they cannot reenroll in EI after the child turns 3.

The school district will:

- Acknowledge receipt of CFC referral by contacting the family.
- Attend the transition planning conference, which is scheduled by the CFC. At this time, notify families of any documents that will be required, such as residency requirements, so the eligibility determination is not delayed.

- Ask the family if they would like the service coordinator invited to the EDC meeting.
- Begin evaluation process in a timely manner to allow for eligibility determination and development of the IEP at least two weeks prior to the child's third birthday.
- Contact the CFC service coordinator to notify him/her of eligibility and the parent/guardian decision regarding EI/ES as soon as possible, but not more than two working days following eligibility determination if the service coordinator is unable to attend the EDC.
- List the IEP service start date to reflect the beginning of the next school year if the family elects the EI/ES option.
- Return Transition Tracking Form to the service coordinator within two working days of determining eligibility, making sure to complete the first day of the next school year field.
- Identify reason for delay in the Early Childhood Transition System as "Early Intervention/Extended Services selected," if applicable. List the IEP service start date as the first day of the next school year.

The parent/guardian will:

- Provide residency paperwork and other paperwork requested by school district so evaluation process is not delayed.
- Be prepared to make decision regarding EI/EC option at the EDC meeting and sign proper consent from both the CFC and school district so services are not delayed.

As a reminder, this new legislation does not change [evaluation timelines](#) or [Child Find responsibilities](#). Children enrolled in early intervention will need eligibility to be determined and, if eligible for services, the IEP to be developed by the third birthday. This includes children who have summer birthdays, meaning eligibility determination must be completed prior to the end of the school year or evaluation teams and IEP team will need to hold meetings over the summer to fulfill this requirement.

Additional resources to assist with this transition include the [EI/ES Transition Checklist](#) and the [Early Intervention to Early Childhood Transition Frequently Asked Questions](#) documents.

Please contact the Early Childhood Department at (217) 524-4835 or [ecsped@isbe.net](mailto:ecsped@isbe.net) if you have questions regarding this legislation.