



LIFE Conference Transition: Part C to Part B

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Delaware
Department of Education



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IDEA

"The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a federal law, first passed in 1975, that makes a free appropriate public education that is tailored to a child's individual needs available to all eligible children with disabilities."



Part C of IDEA

"The Program for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities (Part C of IDEA) is a federal grant program that assists states in operating a comprehensive statewide program of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities, ages birth through age 2 years, and their families."



Part C of IDEA

"Congress established this program in 1986 in recognition of "an urgent and substantial need" to:

- enhance the development of infants and toddlers with disabilities;
- reduce educational costs by minimizing the need for special education through early intervention;
- minimize the likelihood of institutionalization, and maximize independent living; *and*,
- enhance the capacity of families to meet their child's needs"



Part B of IDEA

"Part B, Section 619 of IDEA

Section 619 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) authorizes additional preschool formula grants to states that are eligible for grants under Section 611 of Part B. States are eligible if they make free appropriate public education (FAPE) available to all children with disabilities, ages three through five. While not mandatory, all states are currently providing IDEA services to preschool aged children."



Birth To Three Program Delaware

Department of Health and Social Services

❖ Division of Public Health

❖ Birth to Three Program

❖ **Child Development Watch** Regional Programs

New Castle County AND Kent/Sussex Counties

❖ Family Service Coordinators

❖ 5 Domain Evaluation

IFSP = Individualized Family Service Plan



Birth Mandate

Four educational classifications:

1. Autism
 2. Hearing Impairment
 3. Deaf Blind
 4. Visual Impairment Including Blindness
- Determined eligible through school district and can receive school services before the age of three.
 - Families can choose to transition into an IEP (Individualized Education Program) or stay with CDW and an IFSP



Part C to Part B Transition Timeline

- Children currently receiving CDW services and have an open/active IFSP are potentially eligible to transition into Part B/619 public school preschool services
- Transition Conference to be held with LEA (Local Education Agency=School District) no less than 90 days from child's 3rd birthday and up to 9 months before 3rd birthday
- IF eligible and third birthday falls between:
 - January 1st to August 31st : transition by 3rd birthday
 - September 1st to December 31st:
 - Families have the option to:
 - transition at start of school year if child is eligible for Part B services (CDW services end day before IEP initiation date)
 - OR
 - transition at 3rd birthday



Transition Conference

Family Service Coordinator (FSC) Speaks to family about the transition process from the time family starts with CDW

- FSC schedules and facilitates the Transition Conference
- Secures interpreter as needed
- Parent/Guardian attends conference
- School district representative present
- Early Intervention and Childcare Providers may be invited
- Transition Plan developed
- Meeting typically held at the school district but can be held at the home or other location convenient for the family



Transition Conference

- Review of child's history and current services with CDW
- Team shares information re: potential preschool services
- Team discusses "Next Steps"
 - Progress notes from CDW
 - Evaluations/observations
- Team tries to schedule eligibility/IEP meeting



Eligibility/IEP Meeting

- School district schedules and facilitates
 - Two meetings
 - **Eligibility** for special education services determined
 - Classification identified
 - Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) completed
 - **IEP** (Individual Education Program)
 - **DRAFT** IEP presented
- IEP must be developed and in place by child's 3rd birthday



Eligibility

- Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) completed
 - Team reviews appropriate data
 - Team agrees to appropriate educational classification for eligibility
 - More than one classification can be identified
- Eligibility in CDW does not make automatic eligibility for preschool services
 - Districts have to follow federal/state criteria for determining eligibility for special education services
 - Areas of need must have educational impact
 - **IEP team determines eligibility**



Individualized Education Program (IEP)

- Developed after eligibility has been determined
 - Must be developed and in place by child's 3rd birthday
- **DRAFT IEP presented at time of meeting**
 - Strengths
 - Educational concerns
 - Accommodations
 - PLEP = present level of educational performance
 - Annual Goals...Benchmarks
 - Related Services
 - Transportation
 - Placement



How does Delaware ensure a smooth transition for children and families?

- Two Early Childhood Transition Coordinators
 - NCC/Kent and Sussex Counties
 - Support Families, School Districts, FSCs and Early Intervention Providers
 - Provide trainings statewide
 - Attend Transition Conferences and Eligibility and IEP meetings
- Transition Collaborative Meetings
 - Bringing FSCs, LEAs, service providers, and other stakeholders together statewide to discuss all things related to Transition to help make the state more cohesive and make positive changes



Milton's Story





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