

Federation for Children with Special Needs **Turning Three: Moving from Early Intervention to Special Education** Parent Training and Information Center

"No matter what type of connection you are seeking, the Federation is here to help."

Contact our Information Center/new language line to access our Information Specialists in 250 languages. Register today for a training or orientation at <u>https://fcsn.org/news/#calendar</u>. Continue to <u>support the Federation</u>, no amount is too small.

FEDERATION FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEED





Our Mission

The Federation for Children with Special Needs promotes quality education, parent participation and access to quality health care services for all children, especially those with disabilities.

The PTIC is funded by the U.S. Department of Education under IDEA. The purpose of PTIC is to help parents learn about their rights and how to use them, how to communicate effectively with school personnel, participate in education decision making and learn about their children's disabilities and educational needs.

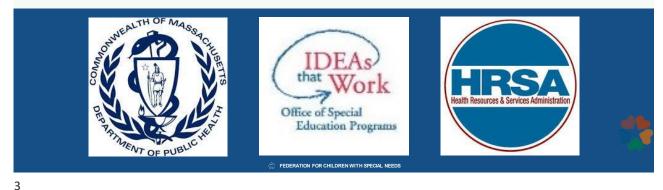


Workshop contents were developed under a grant from the US Department of Education. However, the contents do not necessarily represent the policy of US Department of Education; you should not assume endorsement by the federal government.





The contents of this workshop were developed under grants from the US Department of Education, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and US Department of Health Resources Services Administration. However, the contents do not necessarily represent the policy of US Department of Education; you should not assume endorsement by the federal government.



Attending a FCSN Workshop

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To ensure that everyone feels safe and comfortable participating in this workshop, please...

- Maintain confidentiality and respect the privacy of participants
- Use family friendly language and explain acronyms
- Respect multiple viewpoints and stay open to new ideas – be curious!
- Make room for everyone to be part of the conversation
- Keep questions general so all can benefit from the conversation





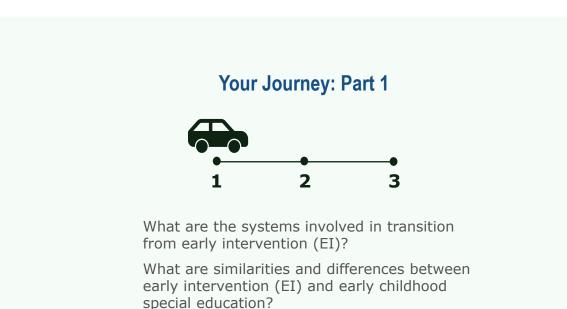
Workshop Agenda

1. What are the systems involved in transition from Early Intervention?

What are similarities and differences between early intervention (EI) and early childhood special education?

- 2. What are the transition steps from early intervention to early childhood special education services?
- 3. What is the special education process and how is eligibility decided, once the child turns age 3?

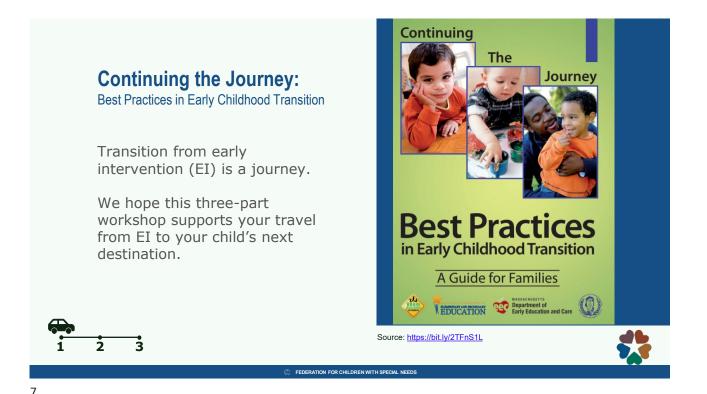
What are your options with the outcome of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting?



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What are Differences Between EI and Special Education?

Early Intervention is FAMILY centered; lots of parent engagement; once found eligible for EI, an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) is developed



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EI applies to the child from birth to age 3

Special Education laws and procedures only apply once the child turns 3



Special Education is CHILD focused; parents help develop the Individualized Education Program (IEP) in the Team meeting; parents can volunteer in school, join PTO & SEPAC



Who is Eligible for Services in MA?

Early Intervention:

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 For infants and toddlers with developmental delays, certain medical diagnoses, and those atrisk ages birth to 3



Special Education:

- For children from age 3 up to age 22 who need specialized instruction to make effective progress and/or related services to access the curriculum
- Age appropriate, developmental milestones
- Only children with specific disabilities listed in the law are eligible

Not all children eligible for EI will be eligible for Special Education.

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At what age is your child eligible for El?

At what age might your child be eligible for special education?

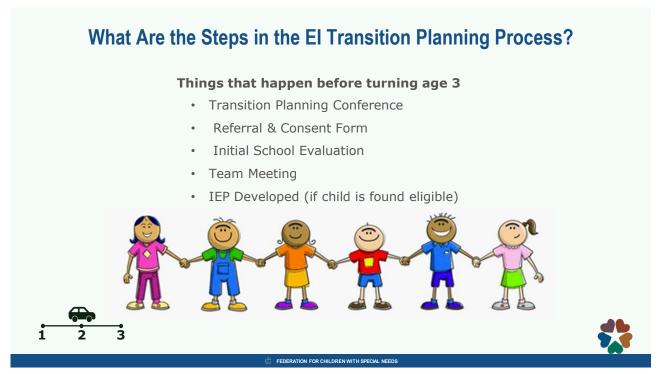


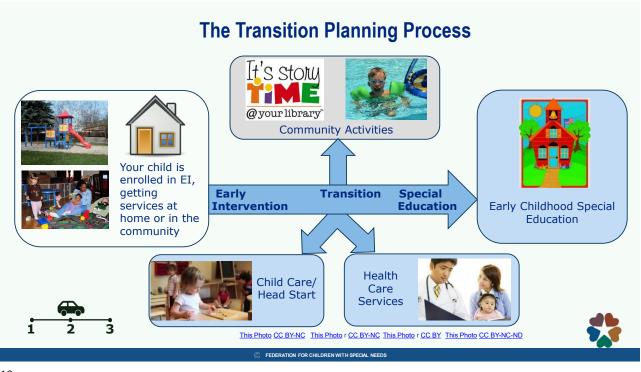






What are the transition steps from early intervention to early childhood special education services?





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Did You Know...

- every child in Early Intervention receives a transition plan.
- about 40% of children transitioning out of EI will be eligible for early childhood special education.
- nearly 60% of children transitioning out of EI will go on to community-based programs, childcare/Head Start, or other age-appropriate activities and programs.
- children can still receive any medically necessary health-related services through health insurance and providers after they have transitioned out of EI.

Source::Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division of Early Intervention, <u>https://www.mass.gov/orgs/early-intervention-division</u>





Transition Planning Conference (TPC)

Every child gets a TPC, even if they are not transitioning to early childhood special education.

Occurs between 2yrs/3mos and 2yrs/9mos old (not fewer than 90 days but up to 9 months before).

Includes EI and school district staff when EI is referring to early childhood special education.

Ask EI provider for a copy of the referral form sent to school district.

Discuss your concerns about your child's progress.

Special education eligibility is NOT determined at this meeting. This only happens at school district.



Referral Process for Special Education Early Childhood Services Before Age 3

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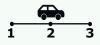
School shall evaluate children who have been referred by an EI program.

Initial evaluation shall be conducted to ensure that if child is found eligible, special education services *begin promptly at age 3.* (603 CMR 28.04 (1)(d))

For child receiving EI, school is encouraged to use current and appropriate EI assessments, whenever possible, to avoid duplicate testing. (603 CMR 28.04 (2)(a)(2)(v))



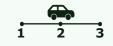




Does the Process Look Different for Child with Summer/Early Fall Birthdays?

Work with the EI and school...

If your child will turn 3 in the summer or early fall, make sure your child's referral gets submitted by April 1st, so that eligibility assessments and team meeting can be held before school ends for summer vacation.



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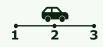


Calendar Days vs. School/Working Days

- EI tracks days by calendar days and is year round
- 7 days in a week;
 365 days in a year

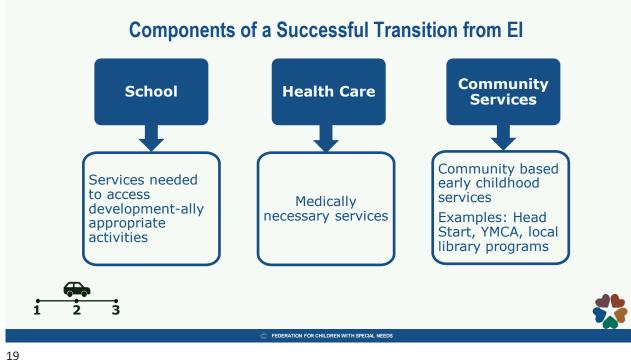


- Special education
 tracks days by
 school/working days
 and follows a school
 calendar Sept June
- 5 days in a typical school week; 180 school days in a school year



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What Should Abby's Parents Do?

The Transition Planning Conference was held when Abby was 2 years/3 months old. At that time, Early Intervention made a referral to the school district for special education.

Abby is turning 3 *in a month* and will be leaving EI. The parents have not heard from the school district. They don't know what is happening with the EI referral.

What should Abby's parents do?

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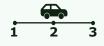
What Should Ben's Parents Do?

Ben is turning 3 and leaving EI.

Ben is determined eligible for an IEP based on his evaluations. He will receive a Pre-K program, occupational therapy and speech therapy 1x/week.

His family agrees with the IEP plan, but wants to supplement his occupational therapy services.

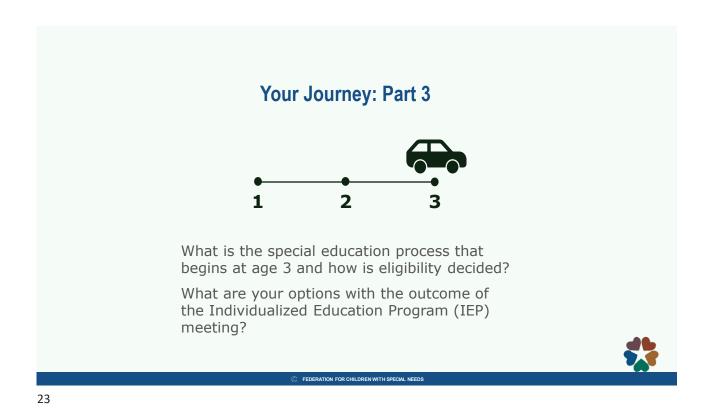


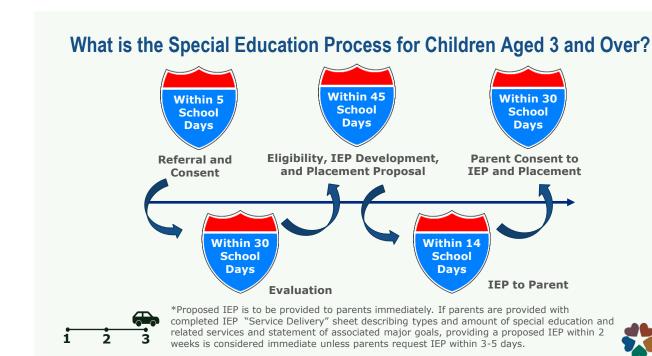


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What is one takeaway you have about the transition process from EI? How does this relate to you, your child, and your family?







Evaluation Consent Form

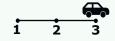
See 603 CMR 28.04 (1)(a) and (2)

For child **over age 3**, school:

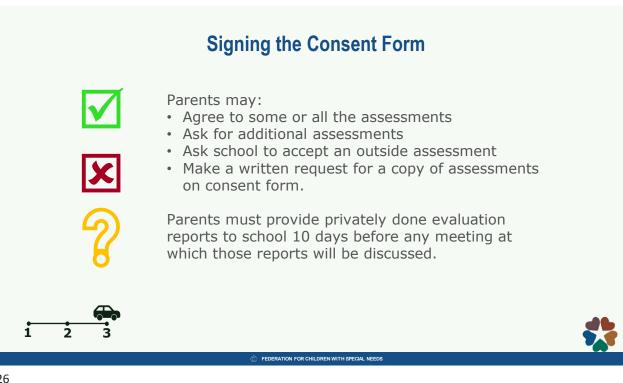
- Sends the evaluation consent form to parent for signature within 5 school days of receiving referral
- Evaluates the student within 30 school days of receiving parent's signed consent form

For child **under age 3**:

 Special education process does not apply to children under age 3



	to a st Distant of Norm				
	hool District Name				
	ATION CONSENT FORM				
م	Attachment to N 1				
TYPE OF ASSESSMENTS: A variety of as information that determines the educational needs			RECOMB YES	IENDED NO	
Assessment in All Areas Related to the S student's performance in any area related to List recommended assessment(s):	uspected Disability(ies) - describe	s the			
Educational Assessment - includes the hi general curriculum and includes current inf					
Observation of the Student – includes the environment or in a child's natural environ	student's interaction in the student	's classroom			
Health Assessment – details any medical p student's education.					
Psychological Assessment – describes the relationship to social/emotional developme		ming style in			
Home Assessment – details any pertinent		that may			
affect the student's education and, with write					
PARE	ENT RESPONSE SECTION				
PARE Please indicate your response by checking at least copy for your records. Thank you.		to the school dist	ict. Please	keep one	-
Please indicate your response by checking at least				keep one	-
Please indicate your response by checking at least copy for your records. Thank you.	one (1) box and returning a signed copy	evaluation in full		keep one	In
Please indicate your response by checking at least copy for your records. Thank you. I accept the proposed evaluation in full.	one (1) box and returning a signed copy	evaluation in full apleted:) SO
Please indicate your response by checking at least copy for your records. Thank you. I accept the proposed evaluation in full. I accept the proposed evaluation in part and requ	one (1) box and returning a signed copy I reject the proposed asst that only the listed assessments be con assessment(s) listed above:	evaluation in full apleted: 	1stestmen	ts: (specify) so <u>ht</u>) /w
Please indicate your response by checking at least copy for your records. Thank you. 1 accept the proposed evaluation in full. 1 accept the proposed evaluation in part and requ 1 additionally request the following assessment():	one (1) hox and returning a signed copy I reject the proposed and that only the listed assuments be or assument(s) listed above: reports at least two days in advance of the request Parvan, Student 18 and Over ⁴	evaluation in full apleted: 	assessmen [603 CMR	ts: (specify	> so <u>ht</u> > <u>ht</u> > <u>dc</u> - <u>ss</u>
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The Initial Evaluation

- Evaluations include formal testing by trained professionals, usually school district personnel
- Should include information from parent(s) or guardian(s) & teachers
- May include outside medical records, and reports from EI
- Language of evaluations must be provided in the child's native language or other method of communication, if feasible



What Kinds of Evaluations Will My Child Have?

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Educational assessment by a qualified representative of school district

Assessment in all areas related to suspected disability Examples of assessments might include:

- functional behavioral assessment (FBA)
- speech and language
- occupational therapy
- physical therapy
- other areas



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before the meeting?

Timing of Evaluations and Reports

- Evaluations are completed within 30 school days after school receives your signed consent form.
- If requested in writing, evaluation reports must be available to parent at least 2-days before a Team meeting.
- If you disagree with the school's evaluation, you can request an Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE).



The Team Meeting

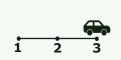
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The Team meeting will occur within 45 school days after the school receives your signed Consent Form.

Team meetings will be scheduled at a mutually agreeable time and place.



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Who is on the IEP Team?

See 34 CFR 300.321 and 300.116(a)(1)

- Parent(s) or guardian(s) fully participate in the development of the IEP as equal partners of the Team
- Evaluators
- General and special education teacher(s)
- District representative with knowledge and authority
- Others with knowledge or expertise regarding child, a friend or advocate for support
- A qualified professional interpreter for parents whose native language is not English, supplied by the school

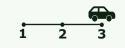


IEP Process: At the Team Meeting

The Team - including the parents - will:

- Carefully consider and discuss the results of the testing and the recommendations of the evaluators
- Determine eligibility based on disability categories
- Develops an IEP, which includes goals and services, if found eligible for special education
- Discuss and determine the appropriate placement for the child to receive the services

Parents should bring a written list of concerns and vision statement (for 1-5 years), which becomes part of the IEP.





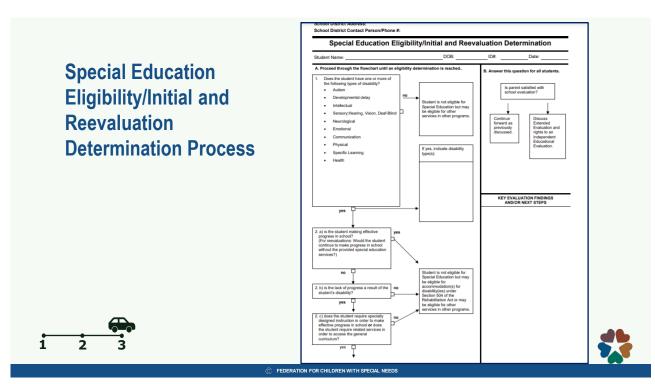
Questions About Evaluation or IEP Team?

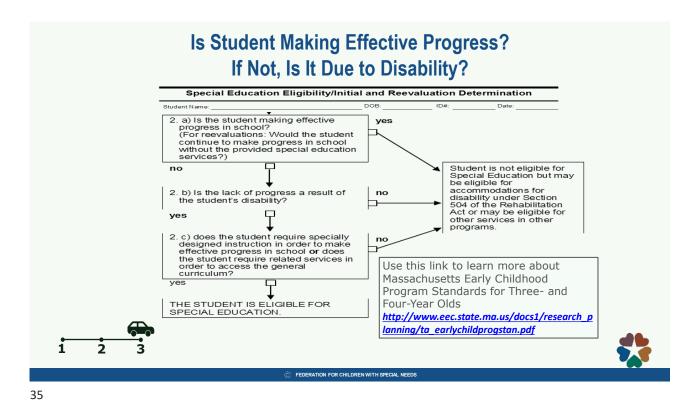


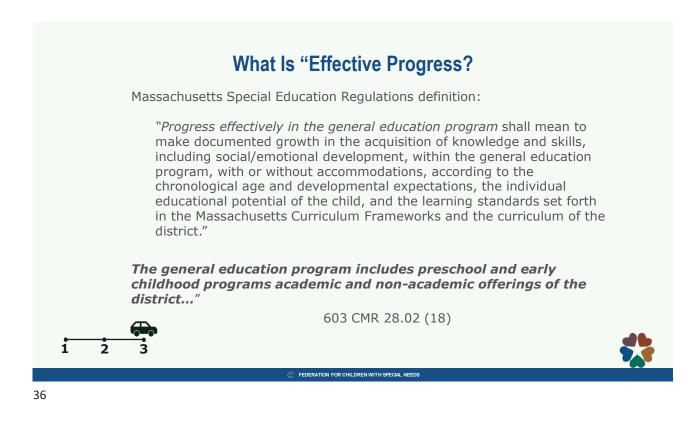
Do you have questions about the Evaluation Process and/or what happens at the IEP Team meeting?

Should you be asked to sign the IEP at the conclusion of the IEP meeting?

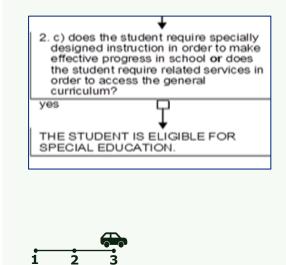








Does Child Require Specially Designed Instruction to Make Effective Progress?



Specially designed instruction *is* special education.

- It is modifying the:
 - 1. content,

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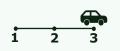
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- 2. methodology, and/or
- 3. performance criteria as appropriate to:
 - Meet the unique needs of the child
 - Address the child's needs related to the disability
 - Ensure access to the preschool curriculum
 - In order to meet "Early Childhood Program Standards/Guidelines for Pre-school Learning Experiences"



Or Does Child Require Related Services to Access the General Curriculum?

- Audiology
- Occupational therapy
- Orientation and mobility
- Physical therapy
- Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)
- Psychological
- School health and school nurse, social worker
- Speech and language pathology







Questions About Eligibility?

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Do you have a question or concern about eligibility for a 3-year-old?







Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) Goals

If your child is deemed eligible for an IEP, then the Team develops one or more goals.

- Goals usually correspond to the areas of need (i.e., behavior, communication, gross motor, etc.)
- Goals should be challenging but attainable within a year
- Goals are linked to services listed in the IEP
- Includes Extended School Year Services (ESY), if applicable

Services may also include transportation, if applicable.



Determine IEP Accommodations

Any assistance that the child will need to participate in the program should be listed on the IEP as an accommodation.

Examples:

- extra thick crayons
- special safety items
- · preferential seating at circle time
- Aide/paraprofessional
- Nurse
- · Sensory activities/breaks

Modifications should also be included. Example: A student with medical issues may need to have certain activities adapted.

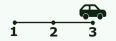




Image source: Raising Children Network, Cerebral Palsy in Children – A guide

Placement in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)

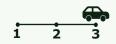
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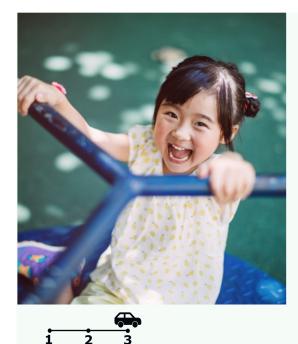
Children with disabilities must be educated with students who are not disabled, to the maximum extent appropriate with use of supplemental aids and services as needed.

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(603 CMR 28.06(2)(c))







Placement Possibilities

Your child's services might be delivered in:

• Your home

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- A clinician's office
- A preschool that the school district operates, serving children with and without disabilities
- A preschool that you choose and pay for (rare)
- A school that specializes in supporting children with disabilities



What Happens at Close of Team Meeting?

Parents should leave the team meeting with a written summary of the Team's decisions, including:

- goal areas
- special education (Service Delivery Grid)
- Placement

You should receive the IEP in two calendar weeks.

Link to details regarding additional timelines: *http://www.doe.mass.edu/news/news.a*

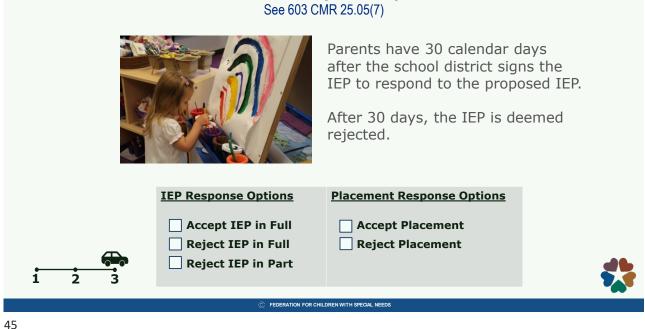
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tudent Nam	e:	-	IEP Dates: from DOB:	ID#:	
		Service De	livery		
	What	are the total service delive	ery needs of this student?		
training/supp	ports). Services should assist t	am modifications and supports (inc he student in reaching IEP goals, t and to allow the student to particip	o be involved and progress in the	general curriculum,	to participate in
chool Distr	ict Cycle: 🗌 5 day o	ycle 🗌 6 day cycle [10 day cycle 🗌 oth	ner:	
	A. Consult	ation (Indirect Services to	School Personnel and Par	ents)	
ocus on Goal #	Type of Service	Type of Personnel	Frequency and Duration/Per Cycle	Start Date	End Date
	B. Special Education a	nd Related Services in Ge	neral Education Classroor	n (Direct Service	o)
ocus on Goal #	Type of Service	Type of Personnel	Frequency and Duration/Per Cycle	Start Date	End Date
	C. Special Edu	cation and Related Service	s in Other Settings (Direct	t Service)	
	Type of Service	Type of Personnel	Frequency and Duration/Per Cycle	Start Date	End Date
ocus on Goal #	0011100				
	001100				



What Are Parent's Response Options to IEP?



When Do Services Begin?

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Services must begin as soon as the full or partially accepted signed IEP is returned, and your child turns 3 years old

Your child can receive special education while you work out differences with the school *if* you reject the IEP in part

- accept in part/reject in part so that child is eligible for special education
- continue to work for more or different services while the IEP is in place



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Accept?/Reject?

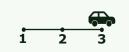
What Happens After IEP Is Signed and Returned?

School district will implement IEP immediately at age 3.

Annual review: Team meets every year. New, challenging goals need to be developed each year.



Progress reports: will be sent home as often as schools distribute report cards and in parents' home/ native language



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DESE Advisory SPED 2009-2 Observation of Education Programs by Parents and Their Designees for Evaluation Purposes -<u>https://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/advisories/09_2.html</u>

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When Will the IEP End?

Parent consent is required for all changes to IEP, including removal of any services (Stay Put Rights)

IEP continues in effect until:

- Next IEP is accepted by the parent or guardian, or
- Team (parents must sign off on IEP) agrees to remove the child from special education, or remove services from IEP
- Bureau of Special Education Appeals (BSEA) orders otherwise







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	School District Letterhead
To:	[Name of Parent, Guardian, Educational Surrogate Parent, Student 18 and over]
Re:	[Name of Student and other identifying information (i.e. DOB, ID8)]
Subje	t: The school district does not intend to act: [Check all that apply.]
	Finding of No Eligibility Refusal of Requested Services Other: (Please specify.]
Notice	Date: [Date notice is to be mailed.]
intenti memo	
find sp includ receiv	k hows, special education regulations provide protection to you and your child. You will end to a special education regulation in the Notice of Procedural Siggenards, ing sources that you may contact for help in understanding your rights. You should have of this breacher proto the initial evaluation. If you would like another copy, please the school district staff. You should carefully review this brochure and the enclosed al.
school	hool district staff is available to speak to you or meet with you about your rights and the district's refusal to act. We strongly encourage you to call us if you have any questions. contact us through the district contact person listed below. Thank you.
Distri	ct Contact Person: [Name and Role]
Conta	ct Information: [Address, Telephone Number, Fax Number and Email Address (if not on letterhead)]
Enclos	ures: ler: /we(b)
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What if the Team Determines the Child Is Ineligible for Special Education Services? See 603 CMR 28.05(2) (a) 2)

Team Chair notifies parents in writing of determination of ineligibility (N-2 form) within 10 school days of Team meeting.

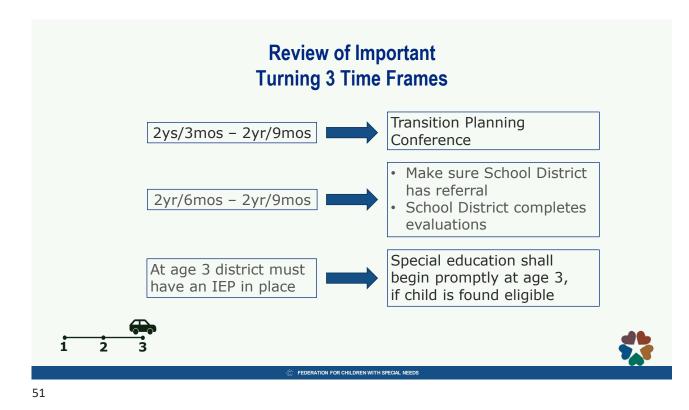
Parents who disagree can:

- Reject finding of ineligibility
- Seek an independent education evaluation (IEE)
- Request a re-determination of eligibility after a new evaluation
- Contest the finding through Due Process
 hearing







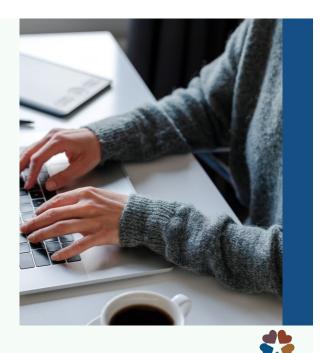


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Help Support FCSN... And win a chance for a \$25 gift card!

Please use our last few minutes to complete the evaluation. The link is in the chat box as well as the handout email sent to you earlier.

We will randomly select a monthly winner from the participants submitting evaluations for each month. One evaluation allowed per workshop.



Laws and Regulations

Early Intervention Operational Standards: <u>https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/07/nw/ei-operational-standards.pdf</u>

MA special education law: MGL Chapter 71B

MA special ed. regulations: 603 Code of MA Regulations 28.01

Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA), 20 US Code 1400 $\,$

IDEA special ed. regulations : 34 Code of Federal Regulations part 300

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Resources

Best Practices, A Guide for Families: <u>https://www.mass.gov/service-</u> <u>details/resources-for-families-receiving-early-intervention-services-in-early-</u> <u>education-and</u>

DESE FAQ: www.doe.mass.edu/sped/ecse/TransitionFAQ.html

MA Family TIES: <u>http://massfamilyties.org/index.php</u>

MA Family Voices: <u>https://fcsn.org/mfv/</u>

Massachusetts Arc: www.arcmass.org/

A Parent's Guide to Special Education Services: <u>https://fcsn.org/a-parents-guide-to-special-education/</u>

Parent Center Hub: http://www.parentcenterhub.org/ei-overview/

Additional Resources

Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) Early Intervention Division: <u>http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/family-health/early-intervention/</u>

DPH - Transition Process: https://eiplp.org/transition-resources-2/

Continuing Journey: <u>http://eipop.wpengine.com/wp-</u> content/uploads/2015/09/Continuing-the-Journey-2014-eng.pdf

EEC - Transitioning from Early Intervention into Preschool Special Education: http://www.mass.gov/edu/birth-grade-12/early-education-and-care/providerand-program-administration/services-for-children-with-disabilities-and-specialneeds/transitioning-from-early-intervention-into-preschool-special-education/

Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center: http://ectacenter.org/

DEC Recommended Practices: <u>http://www.dec-sped.org/dec-recommended-practices</u>





Parent Training and Information Center

Workshops

FREE to participants
Understanding the IEP
Discipline & Suspension
Effective Communication and MORE!

https://fcsn.org/pti/workshops/

Parent Consultant Training Institute

An in-depth training for parents and professionals in a tuition-based program. <u>http://fcsn.org/ptic/parent-consultant-</u> training



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2023 Visions of Community Conference

Save the Date for our annual Visions of Community (VOC) conference to be held virtually on March 4, 2023.

Our conference at a glance:

- Attended by 1,000 families and professionals statewide in-person and virtually
- Over 40 workshops, including offerings in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Arabic, and/or Somali.
- Exhibits from over 80 organizations serving all aspects of families' needs
- Unparalleled networking opportunities for families

Please follow us on social media and see our website for more details.

Thank You

Federation for Children with Special Needs The Schrafft Building 529 Main Street, Suite 1M3 Boston, MA 02129

> (617) 236-7210 (800) 331-0688 <u>www.fcsn.org</u>

Online Intake Form <u>https://fcsn. org/fcsn- intake- form/</u>



