

What is IDEA Part B?

Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA), Part B is federal law requiring an Individualized Education Program (IEP) to help meet the unique needs of children with disabilities age 3 to 22 years. Children receive special instruction and services according to their specific needs based upon eligibility criteria. Services are provided through your local public school district at no cost to parents.

A local school district representative will attend your child's transition IFSP meeting with the regional center and explain special education, discuss your concerns, and answer any questions.

What Is An Individualized Education Program/IEP?

An Individualized Education Program/IEP is a document that describes how the local school district will meet your child's special education needs including eligibility, educational goals, and services. If your child is determined eligible for special education, you and the IEP team, will develop annual goals in all areas where your child has identified needs. If your child is already enrolled in Early Start program, the IEP meeting must be held before your child's third birthday.

The school district will need your written signed consent to conduct evaluations to determine eligibility for special education services and to have an IEP meeting to discuss results.

The location of special education services should be provided in the least restrictive educational setting that will meet your child's needs. These settings may include a general education preschool class on school district campuses, Head Start and Child Development Centers, special education classes on school district campuses with pull-out options and services, or a Special Day Class (SDC).

The Regional Center Has Already Assessed My Child. Will The School District Assess My Child Again?

If your child is in the Early Start program, the school district will review available assessments provided by the regional center. If the assessments are found to be appropriate and current, your school district has the option, with parent consent, to accept any or all the assessments for the purpose of determining eligibility.

What Disabilities Qualify for Special Education Services at Age Three?

The 13 disability categories that qualify for special education are provided in federal and state laws.

They are:

- Autism
- Deaf-Blindness
- Deafness
- Emotional disturbance
- Hearing impairment
- Intellectual disabilities
- Multiple disabilities
- Orthopedic impairment
- Other health impairment
- Specific learning disability
- Speech or language impairment
- Traumatic brain injury
- Visual impairment



EARLY START TRANSITION: PARENT GUIDE

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What is a Transition Planning Meeting?

At the transition planning meeting, you, your service coordinator, school district representative, and others on the team will develop a transition Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

The Transition IFSP Meeting will include:

- A brief review of your child's current IFSP.
- A discussion of the special education assessment process.
- An overview of the continuum of special education program options.
- A discussion of timelines and steps for developing an IEP and/or IPP (Individual Program Plan) if your child is determined eligible under the Lanterman Act for ongoing regional center services or for the Provisional Eligibility Program (PEP)

What is the Transition Process from Early Start program to Ongoing Regional Services after age three?

After age three, eligibility for ongoing regional center services is defined by the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act, for individuals with a substantially handicapping developmental disability. Eligibility for special education services is defined by the Education Code and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA), Part B.

Continued regional center services after age 3 will be based upon the regional center's eligibility criteria and your child's evaluation findings. If you wish to pursue ongoing regional center services after age three, you will need to provide written consent to conduct an evaluation: An evaluation will be arranged by the Regional Center when your child is between 2 years 8 months and 3-years-old.

A team, which includes a regional center psychologist and physician, will review the results of the evaluations to determine if your child meets the eligibility criteria for ongoing regional center services. The results will be reviewed with you, and you will receive copies of evaluations completed by the regional center.



Who May Be Eligible For Ongoing Regional Center Services under the Lanterman Act?

Your child will be eligible for ongoing regional center services if it is determined they have a developmental disability.

A developmental disability is defined by the Lanterman Services Act as:

- Intellectual Disability
- Cerebral Palsy
- Epilepsy
- Autism
- A disabling condition closely related to intellectual disability or requiring treatment similar to that required for an individual with intellectual disability.

The disability is not solely physical in nature and the child has significant functional limitations in at least three of the following areas of major life activity:

- Self-care
- Receptive and expressive language
- Learning
- Mobility
- Self-direction

Who May Be Eligible For Regional Center Services in the Provisional Eligibility Program?

This is a new Lanterman Act program where eligible children are able to access regional center services.

All the following must be met:

- Child is under five years of age
- Child has a disability that is not solely physical in nature and has significant functional limitations in at least two of the following areas of major life activity:
 - Self-care
 - Receptive and expressive language
 - Learning
 - Mobility
 - Self-direction