

Michigan Even Start Discontinuous Enrollment

Question:

A number of Even Start families enroll, drop out, and then enroll again. Should we treat them as “new” when they return, or just keep collecting data as if they never left? (In essence, what is the definition of “newly enrolled”?)

Answer:

The general program information section assists ED in reporting to Congress the effectiveness of the program, based on national evaluation data that showed that families enrolled for a greater duration were more likely to achieve the goals of Even Start. Thus, the “newly enrolled” information, as well as the longevity information is collected. A 12-month time span away from the program (with the accompanying complexities of life that have confronted the family), would constitute a “new” record for a family.

The data collection for outcome indicators is designed to measure the impact of your program on each member of the family. The state indicator suggests that assessments for children be conducted at regular intervals, and six month intervals for adults. These assessments guide and inform instruction and demonstrate progress. It is expected that a family who has discontinuous attendance, but returns, will have new assessment data collected.