



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

September 27, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Presentation on the Proposed *Early On*[®] Policy on System of Payments and Policy on Screening of Children Referred to *Early On*

Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), in Michigan commonly referred to as *Early On*, provides assistance to states for the development of an interagency system of early intervention services to children from birth to three years of age with disabilities or developmental delays and their families. Designated by the Governor as the state lead agency for Part C of IDEA, the Department of Education collaborates with the Departments of Community Health and Human Services to support infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. On October 1, 1993, Michigan fully implemented Part C of IDEA as *Early On* Michigan.

Part C of IDEA supports the Board's expectation of achievement for all children by assisting eligible children and their families to receive early intervention services necessary to improve academic outcomes and continue federal funding.

Proposed *Early On* Policy on System of Payments

To align with federal requirements, a System of Payments Policy has been developed by the Office of Early Childhood Education and Family Services with stakeholder input. The draft policy provides enhanced detailed information regarding the financing of early intervention services for Part C eligible children and their families. The continuous challenging economic environment and loss of population result in decreased *Early On* federal awards. This decrease in funds coupled with an increase in demand for services forces the system to assure all available resources are accessed for families. The System of Payments policy, as proposed by the stakeholder group, consolidates and affirms current practice, and ensures consistent use of resources in all *Early On* service areas. Federal law requires public participation through public hearings for all new policies.

The System of Payments Policy (Attachment A) for Part C of IDEA will be provided to the field for review and comment. Notice will be provided of a public hearing in

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
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Lansing at the Library of Michigan on November 9 and Marquette-Alger Regional Educational Service Agency on November 10. Written comment will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on December 12. The Policy will be returned to the Board for approval after review of comments received during public participation.

Proposed Policy on Screening of Children Referred to *Early On*

The Part C of the IDEA grants support the Board's expectation of achievement for all children by assisting eligible children and their families to receive early intervention services necessary to improve academic outcomes. A comprehensive system of early intervention services requires coordinated and rigorous standards to identify and locate eligible children. The Office of Early Childhood Education and Family Services has developed a draft policy that delineates the expectation for screening to identify and locate eligible infants and toddlers. The proposed screening policy will provide procedures to assure more timely identification of eligible children and potentially decrease the cost of evaluation. Federal law requires public participation through public hearings for all new policies.

The Michigan Child Find Screening Policy (Attachment B) for Part C of the IDEA will be provided to the field for review and comment. Notice will be provided of a public hearing in Lansing at the Library of Michigan on November 9 and Marquette-Alger Regional Educational Service Agency on November 10. Written comment will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on December 12. The Policy will be returned to the Board for approval after review of comments received during public participation.

**Michigan System of Payments Policy for Part C of
the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**

Under federal law for Part C of IDEA, a System of Payments must address core components to detail how services will be paid for in its early intervention system for infants and toddlers. A combination of local, state, and federal resources must be accessed to meet the payor of last resort requirements [34 CFR §303.527]. Michigan's System of Payments includes the core components as outlined below.

1. **Core Early Intervention Services** are provided at **no cost** to the family through a combination of local, state, and federal funds.
 - Screening, identification and referral
 - Evaluation
 - Assessment
 - Development and review of the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)
 - Service coordination
 - Special education and related services for eligible children under the Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education at: http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-6530_6598_7376-132157--_00.html
 - Michigan Medicaid School Based Services as detailed in the state Medicaid Provider Manual at: <http://www.mdch.state.mi.us/dch-medicaid/manuals/MedicaidProviderManual.pdf>
2. **Co-payments/Deductibles:** Co-payments for services provided through state and local programs will be allowed as specified under participating agency policies.
3. **Sliding Fee Scales:** Michigan will use the sliding fee scales, if applicable, for services indicated at:
 - Michigan Department of Human Services
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dhs/DHS_Information_Booklet_and_Assistance_Application_242170_7.pdf
 - Michigan Department Community Health-Mental Health
<http://www.state.mi.us/orr/emi/admincode.asp?AdminCode=Single&AdminNum=33008005&Dpt=CH&RngHigh=>
 - Michigan Department of Community Health-Public Health/MI Child
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/MIChildfullmanual_13163_7.PDF
4. **Private insurance will not be accessed for Part C services by the intermediate school districts.**
5. **Payor of Last Resort:** Michigan *Early On* assures funds available under Part C of the IDEA shall be used in a manner consistent with 34 CFR §303.527 and will assist families to access all available federal, state, local, and private resources that provide payment for services and supports.

Michigan Child Find Screening Policy

As part of the Child Find System, screening may take place to determine whether a child is suspected of having a developmental delay of 20 percent or more in one developmental domain. Individual child screening is not a mandatory procedure prior to multidisciplinary team evaluation and assessment and may not be used to extend the 45-day timeline for the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) development.

If the screening indicates that the child is suspected of having a developmental delay that meets the state's definition, an evaluation must be conducted.

If the service area believes, based on screening and other available information, that the child is not eligible for *Early On*, the service area must ensure that notice is provided to the parent. If the parent still requests an evaluation, one must be performed.

An appropriate screening tool must be utilized. A recommended list of tools can be downloaded at www.earlychildhoodmichigan.org/articles/7-03/DevScrTools7-03.htm.

Parents must be notified and consent to screening. A sample form is attached.

Parental Notification

Early On® Michigan
Service Area Label (w/Phone Number)

TO: Family

Address

City, State & Zip

RE: Child's Name

ID Number

Notice and Consent for Screening

Reason for Notice

Early On Michigan is required to provide you with written notice within a reasonable time (seven calendar days) before conducting screening (identification) activities. It is required that you give informed, written consent for these activities through your signature below.

The purpose of screening is to determine your child's need for evaluation/assessment under Early On Michigan. This is your statement of that notice. "Consent" means that: (1) you have been fully informed of all information about the activity(ies) for which consent is sought in your native language (unless clearly not feasible to do so) or other mode of communication; (2) you understand and agree in writing to the carrying out of the activity(ies) for which consent is sought; and (3) you understand that the granting of your consent is voluntary and may be revoked in writing at any time.

Action Proposed

Your child will be screened in the following developmental areas: cognition, gross motor, fine motor, communication, social emotional, adaptive, vision, and hearing. The screening results will be used to determine the need for evaluation/assessment under Early On Michigan. **The results and information obtained during the screening will remain confidential.**

Description

How the screening is performed will vary based on the needs of your child. It may include review of medical/developmental records, parent interview, child observation, and/or administration of formal and informal developmental screening tools. The person who performs the screening will talk with you about these methods and results.

Timelines

If a determination is made that your child needs an evaluation/assessment, the evaluation/assessment and the initial IFSP meeting must be completed within 45

calendar days from the date your child was referred for the screening. If your family needs additional time beyond the 45 days, it is important that you tell your Service Coordinator.

Date your child was referred to Part C: _____

Acknowledgment and Statement of Consent

I have received a copy of my rights under Part C of IDEA (Notice of Child and Family Safeguards) in *Early On* Michigan. These rights have been explained to me and I understand them.

I **do**___/do not___ give my informed consent for *Early On* Michigan to carry out the activity(ies) described above.

Signature of Parent(s)

Date

Received by:

Name/Title

Date

Optional: I understand the above and agree that this activity(s) by *Early On* Michigan may occur prior to the seven calendar-day prior notice timeline.

Initials of Parent(s)

Date