



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 23, 2020

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors
Early On[®] Coordinators

FROM: Dr. Scott M. Koenigs knecht, Deputy Superintendent P-20 System and Student Transitions 

SUBJECT: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C (*Early On*) during K-12 School Closure due to Executive Orders 2020-11 and 2020-21 (COVID-19)

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE), Office of Early Childhood Development and Family Education, has received a number of inquiries requesting clarification on the impact for *Early On* of Governor Whitmer's March 12, 2020, Executive Order 2020-11 and the March 23, 2020, Executive Order 2020-21 (COVID-19). These executive orders include all *Early On* services, including Michigan Mandatory Special Education Services (MMSE) for infants and toddlers, therefore all services must be discontinued for the duration of the closure. All *Early On* services provided by an Intermediate School District (ISD), including services provided through an agreement or contract with a Local Education Agency (LEA) or any other organization/agency or individual, are to be discontinued for the duration of the closure. Services to infants and toddlers will be expected to resume at the conclusion of the closure.

We are awaiting guidance from the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs regarding timeline compliance. We will share that information when it becomes available. *Early On* programs should, however, be putting public health and safety above compliance concerns at this time. As always, please be sure to keep detailed documentation of cancellations of service delivery, evaluations/assessments, Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP) meetings, transition conferences, among other interactions, including who initiated the cancellation, and the reason for cancellation.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

CASANDRA E. ULBRICH – PRESIDENT • PAMELA PUGH – VICE PRESIDENT
MICHELLE FECTEAU – SECRETARY • TOM MCMILLIN – TREASURER
TIFFANY D. TILLEY – NASBE DELEGATE • JUDITH PRITCHETT
LUPE RAMOS-MONTIGNY • NIKKI SNYDER

Discontinuation of *Early On* services does not preclude an ISD from assigning *Early On* providers and other staff to work on tasks other than delivery of services, such as virtual check-ins with families to ensure needs are being met. However, IDEA Part C funds may only be used for tasks related to *Early On*. Along with normally allowable costs, IDEA Part C funds may also be used to disseminate health and COVID-19 information to relevant parties. Relevant parties may include parents of eligible children, childcare centers, staff in other community locations where *Early On* services are usually provided, *Early On* providers, and primary referral sources.

As additional situations and questions arise, ISDs are encouraged to contact Noel Kelty, State *Early On* Coordinator at KeltyN@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance