

To Parents of Children Transitioning From Early Start to Local Education Agency Services during COVID 19 Pandemic

The Department of Developmental Services (Department) which contracts with Regional Centers issued a Directive to regional centers waiving certain requirements of the California Early Intervention Services Act (CEISA). The Department recognizes the transition to special education services for children at age three may be delayed as local schools face challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic and has authorized a temporary extension of Early Start Services through the regional centers when certain criteria are met.

To determine whether services funded by RCEB can continue to be funded beyond your child's third birthday, the following criteria applies:

1. Did your child turn 3 years of age after 3/1/2020
2. Is/Was the service you wish to extend included in the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) prior to your child turning 3?
3. Were the services you wish to extend funded by RCEB?
4. Was there a referral to the Local Education Agency (LEA)?
5. Is the LEA delayed in providing a plan for transitioning your child to Special Education Services?

If you answered "yes" to all five questions, please contact your child's case manager to review a possible extension of services.

NOTE: The Directive authorized regional centers to extend services beginning July 16, 2020 to September 13, 2020. This extension does not apply where the LEA has provided a plan, with specific services delineated, or where a family has declined LEA services.

RCEB has not wavered in its responsibilities to provide supports to ensure continuity in the delivery of services for children eligible for Early Start services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Regional centers are making every effort to continue to work with local schools to transition children to educational services pursuant to existing regulations. The guidance to Regional Centers is to provide Early Start coordination by remote electronic communications, including Skype, Facetime, video conference, or telephone conference.

August 14, 2020