

Joint Guidance issued by:

**Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)
Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Services and the Texas Education Agency (TEA)**

New Part B Early Childhood Transition Reporting Requirements

The U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has issued a new reporting requirement on the Part B State Performance Plan (SPP)/Annual Performance Report (APR) for the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and local school districts related to early childhood transition, indicator 12. In order to comply with this new requirement, districts will need additional information from Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) programs.

When ECI programs provide referrals (personally identifiable information) to districts or charter schools less than 90 days prior to the child's third birthday, the ECI program must provide a written report to the district or charter school stating the reason for the delay. The information must be conveyed to the district in writing at the time of the referral. ECI programs must choose one of the following three reasons for delay:

- parent refused consent for referral less than 90 days before the child's third birthday;
- the child was referred to ECI less than 90 days before the child's third birthday; or
- ECI specific program reasons.

This will provide districts or charter schools the number of children who were referred from ECI to local school districts less than 90 days before their third birthday and the reasons for delay in referrals. Local school districts are required to report this information in the 2010-11 data collection for the Part B SPP/APR Indicator 12. Districts, charter schools and ECI programs are encouraged to establish formal processes for sharing and maintaining this information.

In addition to fulfilling the reporting requirement, districts and ECI programs can use this information to improve effective early childhood transition. This change is effective July 1, 2010, and will encompass the data reported for indicator 12, July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

DARS and TEA will be reviewing other early childhood transition requirements and will provide additional guidance at a future date.

Technical Assistance

ECI Programs may contact DARS at (512) 424-6817 or via email at Fran.Dayal@dars.state.tx.us
Districts or charter schools may contact the TEA Division of IDEA Coordination, (512) 463-9414