

IDEA | Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

The **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act** is our nation's early intervention and special education law. Part C of IDEA makes early intervention services available for infants and toddlers with disabilities or developmental delays and their families. Part B of IDEA makes special education available to school-aged children with disabilities, including preschoolers.

Sometimes people add numbers to IDEA, such as IDEA '97 or IDEA 2004. When they do this, they're referring to a specific set of amendments Congress has made to IDEA—usually, the year in which those amendments were made.

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) administers IDEA. OSEP is dedicated to improving results for infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities—ages birth through 21—by providing leadership and financial support to assist states and local districts.

ISFP | Individualized Family Service Plan

The **Individualized Family Service Plan** is a written plan for providing early intervention services to an infant or toddler with a disability and the child's family. Every eligible infant and toddler with a disability must have an IFSP. Things to know about the IFSP include:

- The IFSP is based on information gathered through evaluation and assessment of the infant or toddler and the family. Read about evaluation and assessment at §303.321 in the Part C regulations.
- The IFSP includes specific information, such as how the child is doing developmentally, what results or outcomes are to be achieved, what

early intervention services are needed to address the unique needs of the child and family, and where and when those services will be provided. Read what's required by the Part C regulations at §303.344.

- The IFSP is developed by a team that includes the child's parent(s). Read how the IFSP is developed at §§303.342, 343 and 345.
- The IFSP must be implemented as soon as possible after parents give their consent for the early intervention services listed in the IFSP. It is reviewed at least every six months and revised as necessary.


EI or EIS | Early Intervention or Early Intervention Service

EI and EIS stand for **early intervention** (EI) or **early intervention service** (EIS), respectively. This acronym is a bit tricky, because someone may be referring to:

- the overall early intervention *system*,
- the early intervention *program at the State level*,
- *local* early intervention providers, or
- early intervention services that are provided in the natural environment for the eligible infant and toddler with a disability and their family.

ICC | Interagency Coordinating Council

ICC stands for **Interagency Coordinating Council**. If a State would like to receive financial assistance under Part C of IDEA, it must establish an ICC with certain membership (described at

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§303.601). The ICC is appointed by the Governor of the State and has specific responsibilities (described at §303.603), including advising and assisting the State's lead agency in carrying out its duties under Part C of IDEA.

FERPA | Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

FERPA stands for the **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act**, a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools and other programs that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

The FERPA definitions were adopted in the Part C regulations by reference. Whenever FERPA uses the term "student," the term "child" is applied in Part C of IDEA. Similarly, when FERPA uses the term "school," Part C uses the term "EIS providers." Thus, FERPA and Part C both provide for the privacy of early intervention records of infants and toddlers with disabilities.

Read FERPA at Title 34 of the U.S. Code of Regulations, Part 99.

PII | Personally Identifiable Information

PII means "**personally identifiable information.**" The term is prominent in FERPA (just described).

One of the key purposes of FERPA is to ensure the privacy of personally identifiable information in student education records. Part C of IDEA applies FERPA's requirements to ensure the privacy of personally identifiable information in children's early intervention records.

PII is defined as information that can be used to distinguish or trace a person's identity, such as name, social security number, or biometric

records. PII also includes information that can be used in combination with other personal or identifying information (such as date and place of birth, mother's maiden name) that is linked or linkable to a specific individual.

The State's lead agency or other participating agency may not disclose PII to any party, except participating agencies that are part of the State's Part C system, without parental consent. Another exception to the requirement of parental consent is the limited disclosure of directory information when the lead agency must notify the State Education Agency (SEA) and the child's Local Education Agency (LEA) that the child is reaching the age of eligibility for preschool services under Part B of IDEA and is potentially eligible for that program.

TA & D | Technical Assistance and Dissemination Network

When you hear or read the term **TA&D**, it's a reference to the **Technical Assistance and Dissemination Network** of more than 40 projects, each with specialized areas of knowledge in disability. Find the TA&D at: <http://www.tadnet.org/>

OSEP is responsible for guiding, supporting, and monitoring the implementation of IDEA on behalf of children with disabilities in the nation. As part of that responsibility, OSEP funds the TA&D network to provide disability-related expertise to stakeholders nationally or in specific regions.

Several centers in the TA&D focus on early childhood. You can identify these and take advantage of their many resources by visiting this link: http://www.tadnet.org/matrix_centers?id=5

Alphabet Soup, for Later!

You know that there are more acronyms used in early intervention and the disability field than the seven just summarized. So—here’s a quick list of the other acronyms you might hear...and wonder about.

A

AAC Alternative Augmentative Communication
AAP American Academy of Pediatrics
ABA Applied Behavioral Analysis
ABC Antecedent, Behavior, Consequence
ACF Administration for Children and Families
ADA Americans with Disabilities Act
ADD Attention Deficit Disorder
ADHD Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
AMCHP Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
APR Annual Performance Report
ARRA American Recovery & Reinvestment Act
ASD Autism Spectrum Disorders
ASHA American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
ASL American Sign Language
AT Assistive Technology
AYP Adequate Yearly Progress

B

BD | Behavioral Disorder
BIP | Behavioral Intervention Plan
BOE | Board of Education

C

CAPD Central Auditory Processing Disorder
CAPTA Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act
CATCH Community Access to Child Health
CDA Child Development Associate
CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CEC Council for Exceptional Children
CFR Code of Federal Regulations
CHIP Children’s Health Insurance Program
CP Cerebral Palsy
CPRC Community Parent Resource Center
CSHCN Children with Special Health Care Needs
CST Child Study Team

D

DAP Developmentally Appropriate Practice
DB Deaf-Blind

DD Developmental Delay
DD Act Developmental Disabilities Assistance & Bill of Rights Act
DIBELS Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy
DOE Department of Education
DS Down Syndrome
DSM *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (American Psychiatric Association)

E


ECE Early Childhood Education
ECSE Early Childhood Special Education
ED Emotional Disturbance
ED U.S. Department of Education
EDGAR Education Department General Administrative Regulations
EHA Education of the Handicapped Act (now IDEA)
EHDI Early Hearing Detection and Intervention
EHS Early Head Start
EI Early Intervention
ELL English Language Learner
EPSTD Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis & Treatment
ESEA Elementary and Secondary Education Act
ESY Extended School Year Services

F

FAPE Free Appropriate Public Education
FAS Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
FBA Functional Behavioral Assessment
FERPA Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act
FOIA Freedom of Information Act

G-J

GPRA Government Performance & Results Act
HI Hearing Impaired
HIPAA Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act of 1996
HO Hearing Officer

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Alphabet Soup, for Later!

HoH	Hard of Hearing
ID	Intellectual Disabilities
IDEA	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
IEP	Individualized Education Program
IFSP	Individualized Family Service Plan
IGDI	Individual Growth & Development Indicator
ITCA	Infants & Toddlers Coordinators Association

L-N

LD	Learning Disability
LEA	Local Education Agency
LEP	Limited English Proficiency
LRE	Least Restrictive Environment
MCH	Maternal and Child Health
MD	Muscular Dystrophy
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MR	Mental Retardation
NCLB	No Child Left Behind Act
NECTAC	National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center
NICHCY	National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities
NICU	Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

O-P

OCD	Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder
OCR	Office for Civil Rights
ODD	Oppositional Defiant Disorder
OHI	Other Health Impairment
OI	Orthopedic Impairment
O & M	Orientation and Mobility
OSEP	Office of Special Education Programs
OT	Occupational Therapy
P & A	Protection & Advocacy
PBS	Positive Behavioral Supports
PD	Physical Disability
PDD	Pervasive Developmental Disorder
PDD-NOS	Pervasive developmental disorder—Not otherwise specified
PT	Physical Therapy
PTI	Parent Training & Information Center

S

§	This symbol means “section” in the federal and other regulations
SB	Spina Bifida
SCHIP	State Children’s Health Insurance Program
SE	Special Education
SEA	State Education Agency
Section 504	Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
SED	Serious Emotional Disturbance
SI	Sensory Integration
SICC	State Interagency Coordinating Council
SLD	Specific Learning Disability
SLI	Speech/Language Impairment
SLP	Speech/Language Pathologist
SPP	State Performance Plan
SSDI	Social Security Disability Income
SSI	Supplemental Security Income

T-Z

TA & D	Technical Assistance & Dissemination Network funded by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)
TANF	Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
TBI	Traumatic Brain Injury
TDD	Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf
TS	Tourette Syndrome
T-TA	Training & Technical Assistance
TTY	Teletypewriter (phone system for the deaf)
VI	Visual Impairment
WIC	Women, Infants & Children (Special Supplemental Food Program)

