

MEMO

To: Special education supervisors, Early Intervention Resource Agencies (EIRAs), families of children enrolled in TEIS

From: Theresa Nicholls, assistant commissioner, special populations Dr. Gabrielle Madison, assistant commissioner, TEIS

Date: November 20, 2020

Subject: **Expanded scope of children eligible to receive developmental therapy in response to COVID-19**

The Tennessee Early Intervention System (TEIS), positioned in the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD), is committed to working with local education agencies (LEAs) to provide information and services for a seamless transition to Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B services. To ensure that children who have been unable to engage in transition-related activities due to COVID-19 continue to receive critical services during this time, DIDD is temporarily offering developmental therapy to children who have been receiving early intervention services and turned three years old on or after March 16, 2020 but have not yet been determined eligible for Part B services. DIDD will provide such services through February 28, 2021. This [flowchart](#) will provide more information about how to proceed and when a child may still be able to receive early intervention support through TEIS.

On a monthly basis, TEIS will be providing the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) with a list of children who have turned three years old since March 16, 2020 to help facilitate transition to Part B services. If those children are identified as having not yet received Part B eligibility determinations, TEIS will reach out and offer developmental therapy until eligibility can be determined but no later than February 28, 2021. We hope this will allow for the provision of critical services and ensure no child's ability to receive services is negatively impacted during the COVID-19 public health emergency. **It is expected that LEAs will notify the appropriate TEIS Point of Entry Office (POE) of a child's Part B eligibility determination within five (5) business days of its determination.**

As previously communicated in [this memo](#) from July 31, 2020 and in [federal guidance](#), districts must make all reasonable efforts to continue to complete all Part C to B transition-related activities to the extent possible. Please note that the provision of early intervention support through TEIS does **NOT** absolve LEAs of their responsibility to conduct transition-related activities and Part B eligibility assessments as expeditiously as possible. We appreciate your assistance in sharing this information to ensure children receive the services they need, despite ongoing school closures and virtual learning environments.

Please contact Theresa.Nicholls@tn.gov or Gabrielle.Madison@tn.gov with any questions.