



Preschool Outcome Reporting

Background:

As a part of the accountability requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), each State Education Agency (SEA) must have on file with the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) a State Performance Plan (SPP). The SPP contains a number of indicators related to both compliance with IDEA requirements, and performance measures related to child outcomes. The SEA was required to establish targets for each indicator.

Annually, the SEA must submit an Annual Performance Report (APR) which describes the data related to each indicator, whether the specific targets were met, and the improvement activities that are being used to address any deficiencies evident in the data. The SPP/APR Indicator related to Preschool Outcome Reporting is Indicator 7. This indicator requires that the state report the percent of preschool children aged 3 through 5 with IEPs who demonstrate improved:

- A. Positive social-emotional skills (including social relationships);
- B. Acquisition and use of knowledge and skills (including early language/communication and early literacy); and
- C. Use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs.

It is important to note that the IDEA defines preschool as being any child who is 3 or 4 or 5 years of age, *regardless* of where they are receiving their services (i.e., a special education preschool, a regular preschool, a provider's location, or kindergarten).

The Special Education Division collects this information through our child count application each October for those newly identified children (since the previous child count) who are in this category, and in our exiting application in June for those children who are either exiting services completely in this age group, or have turned 6 within the reporting period, but are continuing to receive special education and related services. Following are questions and answers to help districts/cooperatives correctly collect and report Preschool Outcome Data.

Questions and Answers:

1. How are the preschool outcomes measured?

Preschool outcomes are measured through various assessments and/or a review of data in the child's file. Following this, the Outcome Measures Form is completed. It is important to note that this is not a part of the IEP or the Evaluation Report, but a separate form that must be completed.

2. Who conducts the assessment(s)?

The assessments can be conducted by the child's case manager, or anyone else with knowledge of the child's performance, including the child's parent. If done by someone other than the case manager, the information must be given to the case manager for reporting of outcomes and to be placed in the child's Special Education File.

3. When are the assessments to be conducted?

For children who are newly identified, the assessment(s) and the Outcome Measures Form must be completed within 30 days of the determination of eligibility, as long as more than 6 months will pass before they will be turning 6 years of age.

For children 3, 4 or 5 years of age who are exiting special education and related services completely, the assessment(s) and Outcome Measures Form must be completed at the time the child is determined to be no longer eligible for services.

For children who are turning 6, but are continuing to receive special education and related services, the assessment(s) and Outcome Measures Form must be completed within 90 days of the child's 6th birthday.

4. How does a district obtain assessment and outcome measurement information for children who previously participated in an IDEA Part C program?

Assessment and outcome measurement information for children who previously participated in an IDEA Part C program can be requested by the district from the Part C Agency and the parents at the Transition Conference Meeting conducted by Part C, or at the eligibility determination meeting conducted by the district.

5. Must the child be reassessed each year?

No. The outcome measures reporting covers two points in time – when the child is initially found to be eligible for Part B Preschool Services under IDEA, and when the child is no longer eligible for services under the preschool umbrella of Part B (either because of leaving services completely, or because of turning six years of age and moving into the school-aged portion of Part B regulations).

6. Is parental consent required prior to conducting the assessments to complete Preschool Outcome Reporting?

No.

7. Do these requirements apply to children whose IEP only provides speech and language therapy?

Yes. All children who are 3, 4, or 5 years of age are included in this requirement, regardless of disability category or setting of service.

8. Must the IEP contain Measurable Annual Goals for each performance area reported on the outcome measures?

No. Measurable Annual Goals must address the performance area(s) only when the IEP team decides that the child has needs in one or more of the areas after reviewing the Outcome Measures Form.