



**Arizona Department of Education
Exceptional Student Services**

Special Education Monitoring Alert

May 2021

Alert to Special Education Directors and Program Administrators: Preschool Transition (In-by-3) Programmatic Monitoring Changes

Introduction

Arizona IDEA Part C, the Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP), was recently monitored by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). While Arizona Part B, the ADE/Exceptional Student Services (ADE/ESS), only participated as a preschool transition agency partner, the State Education Agency (SEA) was nonetheless issued findings of noncompliance as a result of the Part C monitoring. The findings included deficiencies in the SEA process to ensure a smooth transition of children from Part C to Part B as well as the general supervision of these processes as outlined in 34 C.F.R. §300.124.

Programmatic Monitoring Requirement Changes

To become compliant with the OSEP findings and the implementing regulations of IDEA, ADE/ESS will be executing changes to the programmatic monitoring processes specific to preschool transition. These changes are outlined below. Additional information will be forthcoming as the Programmatic Monitoring Guide Steps are reviewed and made available.

- Evidence of child find procedures for birth to 2.10 1/2 years (34 C.F.R. §300.111)
- Evidence of child find procedures for ages 2.10 1/2 to 5 years (34 C.F.R. §300.111)
- Evidence of evaluations for AzEIP transitioning students completed by the child's 3rd birthday (34 C.F.R. §300.124, §300.304, §300.306)
- Evidence of individual education programs (IEPs) completed for school-age, eligible children by the child's 3rd birthday (34 C.F.R. §300.124, §§300.320–324)
- **Evidence of public education agency (PEA) participation in AzEIP transition planning conferences (34 C.F.R. §300.124)**

The requirements listed above are clearly outlined in the IDEA, and most PEAs already have policy and procedures in place that facilitate compliance with these components. The changes in the programmatic monitoring process allow ADE/ESS's monitoring to conform with the requirements outlined in the OSEP findings and associated corrective action.





Timeline

To ensure that ADE/ESS is compliant with the OSEP findings and corrective action, the SEA will be implementing these programmatic monitoring changes in the beginning of SY 2021–2022, and monitoring activities will begin in fall 2021. **Note:** An exception to this implementation start is the transition conference participation requirement, which will be phased into programmatic monitorings starting in SY 2022–2023.

ESS/Program Support and Monitoring (PSM) and ESS/Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) are working together to create and provide additional training and guidance to the field prior to full implementation of these changes. ESS has also maintained a strong collaboration with IDEA Part C (AzEIP) to ensure consistent messaging for both agencies and allow for the streamlining of data collection efforts.

Please contact your PEA's assigned [PSM specialist](#) with questions or concerns about these new preschool transition programmatic monitoring requirements.

Kathy Hoffman, Superintendent of Public Instruction

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