



TO: Part C Early Intervention Stakeholders  
Part B Child Find and Preschool Special Education Stakeholders

FROM: Christy Scott, Early Intervention Director, Office of Early Childhood, CDHS  
Heidi White, Preschool Director, Colorado Department of Education

DATE: April 1, 2022

RE: Adoption of Extended Part C Option for Colorado

This Spring Colorado adopted a new state policy under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C, which allows early intervention (EI) services, in defined instances, to continue after a child's third birthday.

Federal funding provided through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) became available in Colorado under IDEA 34 CFR 303.211, which allows Part C services to continue for children with third birthdays in the late Spring and summer until the start of the next school year. This new policy is called the Extended Part C Option and is effective in Colorado beginning May 1, 2022.

Stakeholder input related to Extended Part C occurred between July 1, 2021, and February, 2022. There was overwhelming support from a comprehensive group of Part C and Part B stakeholders to request approval and funds for the Extended Part C Option from the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). Personnel of the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) EI Colorado, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) Preschool Special Education, and the federal OSEP worked in unison to develop a policy to implement this option for families.

Children who qualify for the Extended Part C Option are those who:

- Are eligible for EI Colorado Part C services; and,
- Are eligible for Part B preschool special education services and have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) developed; and,
- Have a birthday between May 1, 2022, and the end of August (or first day of school). *This date range may change for future years of implementation.*

All of the transition requirements for Part C (Indicator 8) and Part B (Indicator 12) remain the same. During this first year of implementation (May 1 through August 30, 2022), EI Colorado is notifying parents or legal guardians of children potentially impacted by this new policy, based on their eligibility for Part C and their child's date of birth, to ensure they have notice that this option may be available for their child. **Importantly, this option must be offered to every family whose child qualifies based on the above criteria.** The parent or guardian may elect to access the option or

not, but local programs do not have discretion on whether or not to offer or implement it for families who choose it.

For 2022 the Part C Extended Option will be available with an effective date of May 1, 2022. When adequate funding is available, program leaders may determine to broaden the birthdate range for future years. (As an example, it may be available for children turning 3 on or after April 1st). This will be communicated by posting on the EI Colorado website and informing stakeholders in our respective networks by August 1 for each subsequent year in order to properly prepare for transition conferences.

Look for more details and information to be sent to Part C and Part B preschool stakeholders responsible for implementing this option during the month of April 2022. In the meantime, if you have questions about this policy or its implementation, please contact:

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