

OCTOBER 2021

SB 75

Senate Bill 75 | **Report Addendum**

Part C to B for CA Kids Workgroup Recommendations

From the California Department of Education, the California Department of Developmental Services, and the Part C to B for CA Kids Workgroup

Prepared by WestEd



Suggested Citation: California Department of Education, California Department of Developmental Services, and Part C to B for CA Kids Workgroup. 2021. *Part C to B for CA Kids Workgroup Recommendations Report Addendum*. California Department of Education.

Introduction

The Part C to B for CA Kids Workgroup Recommendations report was submitted to the California State Legislature and the California Department of Finance on October 1, 2021. The report provided recommendations for improving the transition of three-year-old children with disabilities from regional centers (Part C programs) to Local Educational Agencies (Part B programs) to help ensure continuity of services for young children and their families in California, under the authority of California *Education Code* Section 56477 added by Section 50 of Senate Bill 75 (Chapter 51, Statutes of 2019).

The recommendations were generated from May 2020 through April 2021 through a series of stakeholder engagement activities with the Part C to B for CA Kids Workgroup (“Workgroup”), a 41-member workgroup representing a wide range of California early intervention and early childhood special education stakeholder groups. These activities were guided by a 19-member steering committee composed of staff from the California Department of Education (CDE) and the California Department of Developmental Services (DDS). The steering committee guided the Workgroup’s activities and provided expert consultation regarding recommendation design. The processes for developing the recommendations and writing the final report were facilitated by WestEd.

A 21-member advisory group with representatives from the Legislature and the Department of Finance had the primary function of advising on the intent of the Senate Bill 75 legislation and associated reporting requirements. The advisory group provided an opportunity to keep staff members from the Legislature and the Department of Finance up to date on the progress of the Workgroup and to generate a shared understanding with Department of Finance and legislative staff of the evolution of the recommendations. Members of the advisory group were quick to respond to the evolving Workgroup recommendations. This addendum to the Part C to B for CA Kids Workgroup Recommendations report identifies the initiatives in the 2021–2022 California Budget that align with findings and recommendations made by the Workgroup.

Recommendations

Following are the recommendations made by the Part C to B for CA Kids Workgroup.

Recommendation 1

State Support for the Continuous Improvement of Local Programs: Improve the state's capacity to support the continuous improvement of local Part C and Part B programs to facilitate smooth and equitable transitions for children with disabilities and their families.

- **Action 1-A:** Provide technical assistance and mandated training that support the alignment, implementation, and continuous improvement of transition practices for local Part C and Part B programs.
- **Action 1-B:** Provide ongoing professional learning on addressing bias in transition planning.
- **Action 1-C:** Collect and disseminate effective practices that support the continuous improvement of Part C and Part B programs to meet required timelines and support families during the transition process.

Recommendation 2

Eligibility Criteria for Part B Services: Streamline eligibility criteria and eligibility determination policies and practices for programs receiving children who exit Part C at age three.

- **Action 2-A:** Expand Part B eligibility criteria and explore opportunities to promote earlier identification of children eligible for Lanterman services.
- **Action 2-B:** Amend and align eligibility determination policies and practices across Part C and Part B programs.

Recommendation 3

State Monitoring and Support: Improve the state monitoring and support system to build local program capacity for facilitating smooth transitions for children and families.

- **Action 3-A:** Expand and leverage virtual monitoring strategies that support state-level interagency collaboration and strengthen the monitoring and support system for Part C and Part B programs.
- **Action 3-B:** Revise local program monitoring and support processes and protocols to reflect changes in required practices as a result of these recommendations.

Recommendation 4

Data Systems and Data Sharing Across Programs: Link existing data systems and revise data-sharing policies and practices to promote timely sharing of information across Part C and Part B programs.

- **Action 4-A:** Explore and leverage existing or emerging data collection systems to link child data across local Part C and Part B programs.
- **Action 4-B:** Link existing child/student identifiers across Part C and Part B programs.
- **Action 4-C:** Revise state regulations to require that unidentifiable child data be shared across Part C and Part B programs for all children with an IFSP when they turn two years and three months of age.

Recommendation 5

Access to Developmentally Appropriate Services and Inclusive Settings: Increase access to developmentally appropriate services and inclusive educational settings for three-year-old children with disabilities to ensure a seamless transition of services from Part C to Part B.

- **Action 5-A:** Apply to adopt the extended IFSP option in accordance with federal regulations.
- **Action 5-B:** Allow and fund Part C programs to provide continued services and support for children whose third birthdays fall during LEA breaks in service.
- **Action 5-C:** Adjust enrollment practices, timelines, and funding formulas so that existing early education and care programs can accommodate children turning three throughout the school year.
- **Action 5-D:** Expand inclusive placement and support options for all three-year-old children exiting Part C programs, including automatic eligibility for the California State Preschool Program.
- **Action 5-E:** Develop and disseminate evidence-based guidelines on effective early childhood special education services and supports.

Recommendation 6

Family Engagement and Support: Improve family engagement and support practices for transition.

- **Action 6-A:** Establish ongoing opportunities for families to provide feedback on the transition process.

- **Action 6-B:** Build local program capacity to ensure effective family engagement and equitable access to information that supports informed decision-making for all families.
- **Action 6-C:** Require Part C programs to refer families to the appropriate Early Start family resource center and family empowerment center for support during their children's transition from Part C to Part B services.
- **Action 6-D:** Advance legislation to expand family empowerment centers throughout the state and dedicate additional state funding to Early Start family resource centers and family empowerment centers for supporting families during transition.
- **Action 6-E:** Establish policies and practices for identifying primary points of contact within Part C and Part B programs to communicate with families and coordinate transition activities.
- **Action 6-F:** Revise the Part C service coordinator caseload limit and establish a caseload ratio formula for Part C service coordinators.
- **Action 6-G:** Establish a statewide Transition Navigator program that supports families throughout their children's transition process.

Recommendation 7

State and Local Interagency Agreements: Improve state and local interagency agreements to strengthen collaboration policies and practices for transition.

- **Action 7-A:** Review and revise the components of the state interagency agreement related to transition.
- **Action 7-B:** Monitor implementation and support the continuous improvement of the transition policies and procedures outlined in local interagency agreements.

Related 2021-2022 California Budget Initiatives

The following table outlines the 2021-2022 California Budget initiatives that are related to the Part C to B for CA Kids Workgroup Recommendations.

Table 1. Related California Budget Initiatives

Budget Initiative	Part C to B for CA Kids Workgroup Recommendation
<p>California Welfare and Institutions Code 4511.1 by Stats. 2021, Ch.76, Sec. 18. AB 136 effective July 16, 2021.</p> <p>Developmental Disability System Implicit Bias Training https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=4511.1.&lawCode=WIC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation 1
<p>California Education Code 56402 by Stats. 2021, Ch.44, Sec. 89. AB 130 effective July 9, 2021.</p> <p>Family Empowerment Centers on Disability https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB130</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation 6
<p>California Education Code 56415 by Stats. 2021, Ch.44, Sec. 95. AB 130 effective July 9, 2021.</p> <p>Family Empowerment Centers: Information to Families https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB130</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation 6
<p>California Education Code 4519.9 by Stats. 2021, Ch.76, Sec. 24. AB 136 effective July 16, 2021.</p> <p>Community Navigators https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB136</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation 6

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