



FAQs for DDS Directive [01-061520](#):
Extension of Early Start Services

Q1. Has the United States Department of Education changed the rules for children moving from Early Start services to Special Education services?

A1. No

Q2. If my child has completed Early Start during the COVID-19 pandemic, can our Early Start services be extended?

A2. Yes. Your Early Start services can be extended, if:

- Your child received Early Start services through the regional center.
- Your child turned three during the COVID-19 State of Emergency.
- Your child has not been able to access services through the school district.

If you have questions, please call or email your regional center service coordinator. Please visit [the regional center listing webpage](#) for contact information.

You can also contact the DDS Early Start team at EarlyStart@dds.ca.gov.

Q3. If my family has declined educational services with the Local Educational Agency, can our Early Start services be extended?

A3. No. Families must use services such as those offered by schools when they are available. For more information, contact your regional center service coordinator. A list of regional centers and their contact information can be found [here](#).

Q4. If our family gets an extension of Early Start services, can we keep getting the Early Start services that are in our Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)?

A4. You should meet with your regional center to discuss needed services and update or create a new IFSP based on the needs of your child and family.

Q5. What is the start date of the Early Start extension?

A5. The [DDS Directive \(PDF\)](#) applies to children turning 3 on or after Governor Gavin Newsom's [Proclamation of a State of Emergency dated March 4, 2020 \(PDF\)](#).

Q6. How long will the extension of Early Start services last?

A6. The waiver that allows the extension of Early Start services started June 15, 2020, and will end September 13, 2020, unless the waiver is extended. DDS can choose to extend the waiver 30 days at a time.

You can view the [DDS Directive \(PDF\)](#) and check for updates on [the DDS Directive webpage](#).

For additional questions and answers, please view the [Frequently Asked Questions for Individuals and Families](#).

