

Focus Area: Early Start

Measure: Submission of Completed Early Start Reporting

Fiscal Year: 2025-26

### Overview

As part of the ongoing evaluation of Regional Center Performance Measures (RCPM), the Department of Developmental Services (Department) seeks to assure measures are in alignment with the Master Plan for Developmental Services by supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in accessing the transition supports they need and supporting families when a child leaves Early Start and begins school. To address those goals in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26, a set of new measures were presented during the June 26, 2025 RCPM Workgroup meeting. Included below are details for Submission of Completed Early Start Reports in the focus area of Early Start.

### Performance Measure and Desired Outcome

The measure addressed in this correspondence is regional center submission of complete Early Start Reports (ESR) for each child as they exit Early Start. A complete ESR includes all of the following fields: initial referral date, initial Individualized Family Service Plan meeting date, final disposition, exit date, initial and final child outcomes scores, including corresponding dates.

The desired outcome of this measure is that complete data about a child's Early Start experience demonstrates the impact of early intervention services. To meet this outcome, regional centers will complete all fields in the ESR as identified above, within 90 days after exiting Early Start.

### Performance Measure Data

The Department has set a statewide performance target of 85 percent of all children exiting Early Start will have a completed ESR. FY 2024-25 ESR data will be used to establish a baseline. By October 2, 2025, the Department will provide regional centers with draft data via the regional center portal. Regional centers will have until November 17, 2025 to enter all required data for children who exited Early Start in FY 2024-25. Data used for this measure is subject to validation by the Department and must meet the data definitions below.

### Definitions

- *"Initial referral date" means the start date for the required 45-day IFSP timeline outlined in 34 Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 303.310 and 303.342(a).*
- *"Initial Individual Family Service Plan Meeting date" refers to the date used to determine compliance of the 45-day timeline required for the initial IFSP outlined in 34 Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 303.344(f)(1) and 340.420(b)(2) Title 17, CCR, Section 52109(b).*

- *“Final Disposition field and Exit date” is the reason and date of when the child exits from Early Start and is a necessary component to complete to close the ESR record.*
- *“Initial and final child outcomes scores and corresponding dates” is the data required for all children under age three who qualify and receive regional center services. Child outcomes data provides information about whether children served by Early Start make progress in accordance with federal regulations. 34 Code of Federal Regulations Section 303.701 [\(c\)](#) [\(1\)](#) states that “Each State must collect valid and reliable information as needed to report annually to the Secretary under [§303.702\(b\)\(2\)](#) on the indicators established by the Secretary for the State performance plans”.*

#### Incentive

The first year of the Submission of Completed Early Start Reporting measure (FY 2025-26) will focus on data collection to establish baseline data. Subsequent phases will result in recognition and pay-for-performance incentives based on performance against an improvement target that will be defined and communicated at a later date. Future measurement will rely on completion of the baseline data collected in the first year. Therefore, it is important to establish the foundation, including a routine data reporting system and standardized definitions of key dates and timelines during FY 2025-26.