

Focus Area: Early Start

Measure: Planning for Services After Early Start

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 was presented during the June 26, 2025 RCPM Workgroup meeting. Included below are details for two new goals related to: Planning for Services After Early Start in the focus area of Early Start.

Performance Measure and Desired Outcome

The measures addressed in this correspondence include:

1. Percentage of children who receive a timely transition meeting at least 90 days prior to their third birthday.
2. Percentage of children transitioning from Early Start to Lanterman Act Services, who have a completed Individual Program Plan (IPP) no more than 60 days following their third birthday.

The desired outcome of this measure is for children to have timely transitions when exiting Early Start.

Performance Measure Data

The data sources that will be used for this measure are the Early Start Report (ESR) and regional center case management electronic record system (e.g., SANDIS, Atlas, Virtual Chart, etc.) for the following:

- Transition Planning Conference date
- Date of birth
- IPP meeting date

In FY 2025-26 this data will be used to establish a baseline. Data used for this measure is subject to validation by the Department and must meet the data definitions below.

Definitions

- *“Timely transition meeting at least 90 days prior to the child’s third birthday” is any transition meeting that occurs no more than 120 days and no less than 90 days prior to the child’s third birthday. The actual maximum number of days prior may vary based on requirements set by the child’s education agency.*

- *“Transition Planning Conference date” is the date that the meeting to establish the transition steps and services in the Individualized Family Service Plan is held. This conference is required to be held at least 90 days prior to the child’s third birthday. Regional centers may add the date in this field even if the local educational agency (LEA) responsible for determining eligibility for special education services after the age of 3 did not participate provided there is evidence that the Regional Center invited the LEA [CFR 303.209(d)].*
- *“Date of Birth” is the child’s birthday.*
- *“IPP Date” is the date the IPP meeting was held.*
- *“Children transitioning from Early Start to Lanterman Act Services” includes children in status 2 and U.*

Incentive

The first year of the Planning for Services After Early Start measure (FY 2025-26) will focus on data collection to establish baseline data. Subsequent phases will result in recognition and pay-for-performance incentive 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.