

**Department of Developmental Services
Proposed Trailer Bill Legislation
Fiscal Year 2026-27**

**Early Intervention Programs Oversight
FACT SHEET**

1. Proposal:

The Department of Developmental Services (Department) proposes three-year, time-limited authority to issue directives to local educational agencies (LEAs) and regional centers operating early intervention programs. Additionally, the Department seeks statutory changes to reflect the discontinuation of an interagency agreement between the Department and the California Department of Education (CDE).

The Department also proposes non-substantive changes that would consolidate all existing provisions related to the transition out of regional center early intervention programs at age three into a new Government Code chapter.

2. Background:

Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act provides federal funding for states to develop and implement early intervention programs for children from birth up to age three with developmental delays, disabilities, or conditions that place them at a high risk for disabilities. California's Early Intervention Services Act designates the Department as California's lead agency for implementing Part C, also known as Early Start, while assigning CDE responsibility for early intervention services to a specified population of eligible infants under [Government Code 95007\(j\)](#).

The Department receives approximately \$55 million in federal funds annually for Early Start. Historically, about \$14.2 million has been allocated to CDE through an interagency agreement to support LEAs in providing direct services to infants and toddlers with low incidence disabilities (vision, orthopedic, or hearing impairments). As of June 30, 2025, the Department and CDE mutually discontinued the agreement after a three-month extension to facilitate the transfer of CDE's oversight responsibilities to the Department.

3. Justification for the Change:

The proposed amendments would facilitate a seamless transfer of oversight responsibilities for LEAs receiving federal grant Part C. As California's early intervention service delivery models can vary significantly between regional centers and LEAs. This change will offer an opportunity to unify and strengthen consistent practices statewide. Further, in alignment with federal guidelines, the Department aims to extend the record review process currently used with regional centers when monitoring the compliance of LEA Part C programs.

By streamlining the monitoring process, the Department aims to more effectively identify and resolve areas of non-compliance with timely and well-documented corrections. While existing statute provides broad authority to implement federal programs, statute must be amended to formally reflect the transfer of responsibilities from CDE to the Department, and to supersede regulations.

4. Summary of Arguments in Support:

- Enables the Department to promptly address regulatory consistency and improvements for early intervention services across LEAs and regional centers
- Establishes a mechanism to resolve issues identified during federal audits, thereby reducing the risk of enforcement actions related to the federal grant
- Time-limited authority for written directives allows time for immediate action while maintaining long-term adherence to formal public rule-making processes

5. BCP or Estimate Issue # and Title: [Local Assistance Estimate, Early Intervention Services, page E-10](#)