



PETE CERVINKA
DIRECTOR

CALIFORNIA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

1215 O Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.dds.ca.gov



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

July 8, 2026

SENT VIA EMAIL ONLY

Gloria Wong, Executive Director
Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center
1000 South Fremont Ave.
Alhambra, CA 91803

Dear Gloria Wong:

This letter is to convey the results of the Department of Developmental Services' (Department) review of the Early Start Program at Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center (ELARC). This review was conducted through the Department's Self-Assessment Monitoring (SAM) system April 2, 2026 through May 27, 2026 to ensure that California meets Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requirements.

ELARC completed a self-assessment of 80 records through SAM. This consisted of 40 regular records and 40 transition records. The Department verified the documentation and the findings for each of the 80 records. The Department identified finding(s) of noncompliance in the following areas:

- Timely provision of services,
- Early Intervention Services must be provided in the natural environment,

The details of the findings are in Monitoring Report Summary (see the Attachment).

Required Action:

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) requires the state lead agency, the Department, to verify correction of noncompliance based on the individual child level (prong 1) and the systemic level (prong 2) as soon as possible, and no later than one year from the date of this letter. A plan, signed by you, addressing the systemic level (prong 2) areas of noncompliance is required to be submitted to the Department within 30 days of the date of this letter.

As part of the plan of correction, ELARC should identify and address the root cause of noncompliance on each outstanding finding. Identifying the root cause ensures that corrective actions are meaningful and effective. Please forward the required evidence of clearance on each of the outstanding individual findings (prong 1) as soon as it is available (if applicable). The Department will require ELARC to provide subsequent records to clear the systemic level findings. In addition, please see recommendations listed on page 6 of the monitoring report.

Thank you for your cooperation during the monitoring review of the Early Start program at ELARC and your commitment to serving children and families. If you have any questions, please contact Reyna Ambriz, Early Start Branch Manager, at (916) 651-0364, or by email at Reyna.Ambriz@dds.ca.gov.

Gloria Wong, Executive Director
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Sincerely,

Original Signed by

MARICRIS ACON
Deputy Director
Early Childhood and Youth Services Division

Attachment

cc: Maria Teresa (Terry) Munoz, Board President, ELARC
Veronica Valenzuela, ELARC
Carmen Vasquez, ELARC

**EARLY START MONITORING REPORT SUMMARY
ELARC REGIONAL CENTER**

DATE OF REVIEW: APRIL 2, 2026 – MAY 27, 2026

FINAL REPORT DATE: JULY 8, 2026

ITEMS AT 100% COMPLIANCE				
REQUIREMENT		RECORDS IN COMPLIANCE	TOTAL RECORDS REVIEWED	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE
R2	Initial evaluation determined the infant's or toddler's level of functioning in all developmental domains, including hearing, vision, and health. 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Sections 303.21, 303.24, 303.310, 303.321 and Title 14, California Early Intervention Services Act (CEISA) Section 95014	40	40	100%
R4	Written notice of the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) meeting. 34 CFR, Section 303.342(d)(2)	40	40	100%
R5	Initial IFSP meeting was conducted within the 45-day timeline. 34 CFR, Sections 303.310 and 303.342(a)	40	40	100%
O3	Parental consent was obtained prior to the provision of services. 34 CFR, Section 303.342(e)	40	40	100%

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CLEARED FINDINGS Findings cleared prior to the issuance of the report. No further action is required.							
REQUIREMENT		ORIGINAL RECORDS IN COMPLIANCE	TOTAL RECORDS REVIEWED	ORIGINAL COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE	SUBSEQUENT RECORDS IN COMPLIANCE	TOTAL SUBSEQUENT RECORDS REVIEWED	SUBSEQUENT COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE
R1	Obtained written parental consent for evaluation/assessment. 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Sections 303.321(a) and 303.420(a)(2)	39	40	97.50%	■	■	100%
R3	Initial assessment for service planning identified unique strengths and service needs in all five developmental domains, including hearing, vision, and health, prior to the initial IFSP. 34 CFR, Sections 303.21, 303.24, 303.310, 303.321 and Title 14, California Early Intervention Services Act (CEISA) Section 95014	39	40	97.50%	■	■	100%
R7	The IFSP included the frequency and length for all early intervention services. 34 CFR, Section 303.344(d)(1)(i)	38	40	95.00%	■	■	100%

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REQUIREMENT		ORIGINAL RECORDS IN COMPLIANCE	TOTAL RECORDS REVIEWED	ORIGINAL COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE	SUBSEQUENT RECORDS IN COMPLIANCE	TOTAL SUBSEQUENT RECORDS REVIEWED	SUBSEQUENT COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE
T1	The IFSP included timely transition steps and services. 34 CFR, Sections 303.209(d) & (e) and 303.344(h)	36	40	90.00%	■	■	100%
T2	Timely notification to Local Educational Agency (LEA). 34 CFR, Sections 303.209(b) and 303.401(d)	36	40	95.00%	■	■	100%
T3	Transition Conference occurred in a timely manner and the LEA was invited to the transition meeting. 34 CFR, Section 303.209(c)(1)	38	40	90.00%	■	■	100%

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NONCOMPLIANCE

Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center must clear findings on both the child-specific and systemic levels. Systemic level findings must be cleared as soon as possible but no later than one year from the final report date. **A Plan of Correction and subsequent review are required to clear these items.**

REQUIREMENT		RECORDS IN COMPLIANCE	TOTAL RECORDS REVIEWED	COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE	PRONG 1 (CHILD-SPECIFIC) OUTSTANDING	PRONG 2 (SYSTEMIC) OUTSTANDING
R6	Timely provision of services. 34 CFR, Sections 303.344(f)(1) and 303.420(b)(2) Title 17, California Code of Regulations (CCR), Section 52109(b)	32	40	80.00%		x
R8	Early intervention services are provided in the natural environment or the IFSP contains an appropriate justification when services are not provided in a natural environment. 34 CFR, Sections 303.26, 303.126 and 303.344(d)(1)(ii)	33	40	82.50%	x	x

Key:

R: "Regular" corresponds to the Regular Record Tool item,

T: "Transition" corresponds to the Transition Record Tool item

O – "Other" refers to an additional finding

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OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL FINDINGS (PRONG 1)

RR#	UCI	ITEM R8 Natural Environment
RR 01		X
RR 19		X
RR 24		X
RR 27		X
RR 38A		X

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RECOMMENDATIONS

Considering what is outlined above, the Department recommends ELARC to align practices/procedures related to:

- Timely Provision of Services, and
- Natural Environment

For further information, the Department encourages ELARC to further review available technical assistance resources related to the IFSP. These resources include but are not limited to:

- IFSP Resources through the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center: <https://ectacenter.org/topics/ifsp/ifspprocess.asp>
- Educational & Developmental Intervention Services - IFSP Process Guidance Handbook:
<https://ectacenter.org/eco/assets/pdfs/EDISIFSPProcessGuidanceHandbook.pdf>

As required by 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Sections 303.344(f)(1), 303.420(b)(2), 303.26, 303.126 and 303.344(d)(1)(ii) Title 17, California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 52109(b).