

May 13, 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE PART C COORDINATOR

The 2025 Early Intervention (EI) Family Questionnaire will be distributed in the coming weeks. Over the past several years, we have placed emphasis on increasing both the overall response rate and the representativeness of respondents. These have been ongoing areas of focus for the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). Additionally, our results are more meaningful when we hear from a larger proportion of our families, particularly when our respondents are representative of the population we serve. We have succeeded in increasing the response rate and representativeness of respondents for multiple years, thanks to the hard work of our local Early Intervention teams. I hope that we can continue that trend this year!

To me, hearing directly from the families we serve is the ultimate litmus test of how well the EI program is being implemented in Ohio. We use the responses to determine what is working well and where improvements are needed, and ultimately to make data-informed decisions about the direction of the program. Not only do we use this information to make program decisions, but the responses are a great reminder of all the amazing work our local EI programs are doing day in and day out.

I want to thank you in advance for the efforts you will put into this year's questionnaire – it is a lot of work, but the data we receive is incredibly useful. This is one of my favorite activities each year. I love to see the impact you all are making on the children and families we serve and hope you will join me in embracing this aspect of the EI Family Questionnaire.

Please feel free to contact me at Taylor.Hammond@childrenand youth.ohio.gov with ideas, questions, or suggestions anytime.

PROGRAM UPDATES

2025 Early Intervention (EI) Family Questionnaire

The 2025 EI Family Questionnaire will be underway soon. Like the past few years, the majority of questionnaires will be distributed via email and collected online with Survey Monkey. DCY will continue to send questionnaires via mail if the primary caregiver identified in the Early Intervention Data System (EIDS) did not have an email address listed, the email address was identified as invalid, or the parent has opted out of receiving inquiries from Survey Monkey. All questionnaires in languages besides Spanish and English will also be distributed via mail. Around the time of questionnaire

distribution, DCY will send each county a list of Family Questionnaire recipients, including the survey distribution language and method, as well as contact information for the family.

State Fiscal Year 2025 (SFY25) 45-Day Baseline Analysis

Activities related to the SFY25 45-Day baseline compliance analysis are underway. Compliance data for the analysis were extracted on April 23. DCY sent applicable compliance inquiries on May 7, and they are due back to DCY on May 22.

SFY25 Timely Receipt of Services (TRS) and Transition Baseline Analyses

DCY is currently reviewing submitted information, requesting clarification information as needed, and incorporating inquiry data for the SFY25 TRS, Transition Steps and Services, and Transition Planning Conference (TPC) analyses. The final analyses are expected to be completed and results memos sent by June 17.

Did You Know – Signatures on Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs)

An IFSP is not complete until all required signatures have been documented in Section 8 of the IFSP (the “signature page”). Because the parent and EISC are required IFSP participants, Section 8 of the IFSP must always include the signature of the parent and EISC, at minimum. The parent signature serves as written consent to implement services as outlined on the IFSP, and as such, services cannot begin until the parent signature is obtained.

Additionally, services cannot be added to the IFSP without the providers’ consent. EI Service providers must sign the IFSP when a service is added or changed, and their signature date should be the date of the IFSP meeting. When a provider who has agreed to provide an EI service participates in the IFSP meeting via other means than attending in person, an electronic or paper copy of the IFSP must be sent to the provider for a signature.

Finally, the EISC is required to send a completed copy of the IFSP, including all applicable signatures, to the parent, EI service providers, and, with the parent’s consent, other participants within ten calendar days of the IFSP. See OAC rule 5180-10-02 for additional details regarding requirements associated with IFSPs.