



April 14, 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE PART C COORDINATOR

This update is packed full of important information. I encourage you to read each update thoroughly and would like to particularly call your attention to a few updates: the Developmental Specialist Certification rule is posted for public comment, county Annual Performance Reports and Determinations have been sent and posted on the EI website, and EI office hours has a new name. Keep reading for more information!

Please feel free to reach out to me at Taylor.Hammond@childrenand youth.ohio.gov with ideas, questions, or suggestions any time.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Developmental Specialist Certification Rule Posted for Public Comment

The EI Developmental Specialist Certification Rule (currently OAC 5180-10-05, being renumbered to OAC 5180:1-05), which establishes minimum qualifications and certification standards for individuals serving as Developmental Specialists in EI, is posted for public comment [here](#) through May 6. Please review and submit any comments by this date. You can also sign up to receive notifications about DCY rule packages on the “Email Alerts and Additional Rule Information” tab of this page.

This rule is being renumbered and reformatted into a question-and-answer format. In addition to these changes, we are proposing only minor technical corrections and clarifications, including the following:

- Streamlining certification pathways by reducing one-year certification from two tracks to one and five-year certification from three tracks to two
- Removing all references to EI supervisor certification, as this certification is no longer applicable, ensuring the rule reflects current practice
- Requiring the completion of coursework in all six identified content areas for five-year certification
- Adjusting the evidence-based practice coaching timeframe from a minimum of twelve months beginning within six months of hire to a minimum of nine months beginning within three months of hire
- Removing provisions related to administrative review, background checks, and annual training that are addressed elsewhere in the Revised Code

Federal Fiscal Year 2026 Part C Application

The Department of Children and Youth will be applying this upcoming fiscal year for federal Part C funds. As a reminder, the application for funding has been posted for 60 days of public participation. The department will accept public comments on the application through April 19, and the application will remain posted through May 19. You can access the application [here](#) and submit any comments [here](#).

County Annual Performance Report and Determinations

State Fiscal Year 2025/Federal Fiscal Year 2024 (SFY25/FFY24) County Annual Performance Reports (APRs) and Determinations and accompanying memos, along with a document that includes a description of all the APR data, were sent to EI Contract Managers and FCFC Coordinators April 3. A file with all the county reports and a file with APR indicator percentages by county have been posted on the [County Data page](#) of the EI website. Individual SFY25/FFY24 reports will be posted on each county page in the coming weeks.

Ohio's [FFY24 Part C APR](#) was submitted to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) January 28 and state determinations are expected to be distributed by the end of June. Please feel free to reach out to [Taylor Hammond](#) with any questions.

Certification/Credentialing Reminder – Processing Time

In order to maintain EI credentials and certifications, it is important that EI Service Coordinators (EISC), EISC Supervisors, and Developmental Specialists (DS) closely monitor their credential/certification expiration dates and submit renewal applications in a timely manner. Please be aware that it takes up to **30 business days** to process all documents submitted to the Ohio Professional Registry (OPR), including applications, transcripts, and training certificates. If an applicant does not submit an EISC, EISC Supervisor, or DS certification application at least 30 business days before their current certification expires, they may experience a lapse in their credential and their ability to provide services within their credentialed/certified scope of practice. Failure to submit timely applications for certification and credential renewals may also result in corrective action.

If you have any questions about credential/certification requirements, please contact eitraining@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov. If you have questions regarding the status of your OPR submissions or access to applications in the OPR, please contact credential@occr.org.

EI Breakfast Club (formerly known as EI Office Hours)

Thank you to everyone who has participated in our EI office hours calls thus far and to those of you who submitted ideas for the name of the series. After reviewing suggestions and careful consideration, we are excited to announce that this series will be known as **EI Breakfast Club** going forward. We will continue to provide relevant updates and information on these calls and look forward to engaging with you all regarding important topics in EI!

On the March 30 office hours call, the DCY EI team provided program updates, reminders about the credentialing/certification process, and an overview of the Part C APR indicators and how the state collects data for each indicator. The recording is available [here](#).

The April EI Breakfast Club will feature our DCY colleagues providing information about [Family Connects Ohio](#), an evidence-based nurse home visiting model that provides support for families with newborns. Additional information about and topics for future calls will be provided closer to the call dates. Use the links below to register for upcoming calls:

- Register [here](#) for the April 27 call
- Register [here](#) for the May 18 call – Please note this instance was moved up a week due to the Memorial Day holiday
- Register [here](#) for the June 29 call
- Register [here](#) for the July 31 call

May 1 LEA

The May 1 quarterly LEA reporting requirement is quickly approaching. Under Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 5180-10-02(L)(1)(b), the EI service coordination agency must notify the LEA of children who will turn three within the next year by the first day of February, May, August, and November. This report is available in the EI Data System (EIDS) in both Excel and PDF formats. You may use either version, but please remember the following:

- The May 1 LEA report must be run no earlier than April 21 and no later than May 1.
- It is expected that child information will be updated in a timely manner so that the LEA reports in EIDS are accurate.
- Only the sections of the report that are relevant to a particular LEA should be sent to that LEA, not the entire report.
- If you are not sure which LEA should be selected for a specific child, we encourage you to contact the relevant educational service center (ESC) for clarification. Contact information for all of the ESCs and public school districts, along with a map of districts, is available [here](#).

This quarterly report must be provided to the LEAs no later than May 1. The report does not need to be submitted to DCY, but we encourage you to keep a copy for your records. If you have any questions, please contact [Erin Hale](#) and [Becca Muntean](#).

State Fiscal Year 2026 Compliance Analyses

Activities related to the State Fiscal Year 2026 (SFY26) Timely Receipt of Services (TRS) baseline analysis continue. Compliance inquiries were sent to included counties March 17 and due back to DCY March 31. DCY is reviewing submitted information and requesting clarifying information, as applicable. Results memos are scheduled to be sent May 21.

Activities related to SFY26 45-Day baseline compliance analysis are underway. Deletion requests and any questions related to the data were due to be submitted April 10 and any applicable data re-entry is due April 22. Compliance data will be extracted from EIDS April 22.

The SFY26 baseline calendar, including a list of counties in each group, is available on the [Monitoring page](#) of the Ohio EI website. Please contact EI Policy and Monitoring consultants, [Erin Hale](#) and [Becca Muntean](#) with any questions about the SFY26 compliance analyses.

Another Sparkler Milestone!

As of January 2026, more than 20,000 unique children were screened using the ASQ and Sparkler tools since Sparkler launched in Ohio in September 2024. More than 43,000 total Ages and Stages (ASQ) screenings have been completed in Sparkler and there are nearly 1,200 program partners in Ohio. Almost 500 children have been connected to Early Intervention through Sparkler during this time. All these numbers continue to grow every day, connecting Ohio's families with the information and services they need to support their children's development. Visit the [Ohio Help Me Grow website](#) to learn more about Sparkler.

Newborn Screening Family Advisory Committee

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, in partnership with the Ohio Department of Health, is looking for families who have navigated a positive newborn screening result for genetic disorders, sickle cell disease, congenital heart defects, or early hearing disorders to join the Newborn Screening Family Advisory Committee. This statewide initiative provides an opportunity to support newborn screening advocacy and empower and uplift the voices of families across Ohio. [See this flyer](#) for additional details and contact OhioNBSFamilies@cchmc.org with any questions.

New Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association (OCCRRA) Support Email for Credential/Certification Inquiries

Credentialed EISCs, EISC Supervisors, and DSs are encouraged to send questions related to their credential/certification, OPR uploads, and OPR Professional Development documentation to credential@occrra.org. This is a new inbox that is monitored directly by members of the OPR review team.

RESOURCES AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

ID Early for Autism in Early Intervention 2026

The Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) and DCY are hosting regional in-person trainings for EI professionals this spring focused on early autism indicators, identification tools, and supporting families while they wait for a diagnostic evaluation. The dates and locations are as follows:

- April 16: Akron (Akron-Summit Library)
- May 28: Toledo (Toledo Public Library)
- June 4: Cincinnati (Cincinnati & Hamilton County Public Library)
- June 5: Chillicothe (Ohio University, Eastern Campus)

Click [here](#) for additional information and/or to register for one of these trainings.

OCALI's Early Childhood Center of Excellence

Ohio's Early Childhood Center of Excellence (CoE), part of Ohio PROMISE, partners with early interventionists and child care professionals to strengthen inclusive practices in child care and EI, helping young children with diverse developmental needs fully participate in their everyday child care activities and routines. The CoE offers professional development opportunities, lends equipment and materials, and provides early development and learning support around inclusive learning practices. [See this flyer](#) to learn more!