



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

EDUCATION

Guidance Related to COVID-19: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C Provision of Early Intervention Services

(April 1, 2020)

Background

As a part of the District's response to coronavirus (COVID-19), the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) is offering this guidance document to accompany guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) on ensuring the provision of Part C early intervention services (EIS) to infants and toddlers with disabilities during the COVID-19 outbreak. OSEP's guidance document can be found [here](#).

Scope

This document contains guidance specifically relating to the provision of IDEA Part C services by EIS providers under Part C of the federal IDEA. This document generally constitutes informal guidance and does not impose any additional requirements beyond those included in applicable federal and local law and regulations.

Date Issued and Effective Date

This guidance was issued on March 30, 2020 and will take effect on April 1, 2020 and will remain in effect until further notice.

Part C Policy Guidance

As of the effective date of this guidance, April 1, 2020, the offices of the state lead agency (OSSE) and the early intervention service (EIS) provider (Strong Start, DC's Early Intervention Program (DC EIP)) **are open and have resumed the delivery of Part C services, remotely**. At the direction of the Mayor, and as a response to the COVID-19 outbreak, lead agency staff and Strong Start staff are working remotely. Due to public health and safety concerns as a result of a COVID-19 outbreak in the area, Part C services provided to infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families during this period of time shall not be provided in-person. Services shall be offered and delivered to children and their families exclusively through Telehealth, aligned with additional guidance provided by OSSE and the [Department of Health Care Finance \(DHCF\)](#). Families have the right to decline services provided via Telehealth and request to resume early intervention services in-person when they become available.

The service coordinator and the providers for each child must determine if the child's service needs have changed as a result of the program closure that occurred between March 16 and March 31, 2020,



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and determine whether the individualized family service plan (IFSP) team needs to meet to review the child's IFSP to determine whether any changes are needed.

Questions?

Current families, if you have questions relating to this guidance, please contact your assigned service coordinator directly.

Providers and other stakeholders, if you have questions, please contact Strong Start at operations.dceip@dc.gov.

For resources and additional information about the District of Columbia Government's response to coronavirus (COVID-19), visit coronavirus.dc.gov.