

Part C Exiting Data Notes

2017-18 Reporting Year

This document provides information or data notes on the ways in which states collected and reported data differently from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) data formats and instructions. In addition, the data notes provide explanations of substantial changes or other changes that data users may find notable or of interest in the data from the previous year.

Alabama

- The State provided the following response to a large Year to Year change: We attribute the year to year changes seen in the use of the exiting reasons “Not Eligible for Part B-Exit with No Referrals” and “Part B Eligibility Not Determined” to be the result of increased statewide training with Service Coordinators that was a result in a significant increase from SY 2015-16 to SY 2016-17’S data in the closure reason “Withdrawal by parent (or guardian).” State monitors and liaisons worked with Service Coordinators to encourage parents who are reluctant to make the LEA referral to at least agree to the notification to the LEA and participate in the 33-month meeting. By encouraging more parents to meet the LEA representative they can gather information and then make a more informed decision about going further in the process. This shift can be seen in the significant increase (36 cases) in the cases closed using the “Part B Eligibility Not Determined”, the significant decrease (38 cases) in the cases closed with “Not Eligible for Part B, Exit with No Referrals” and the leveling off of the closure reason “Withdrawal by Parent or Guardian” from SY 2015-16 to SY 2017-18. More parents are agreeing to the referral to the LEA and then after the 33-month meeting either withdrawing before eligibility for Part B is determined or they continue with the process and the child is found ineligible for Part B services and the parents feel no other referrals are needed. One other factor that would contribute to the decrease in cases closed with “Not Eligible for Part B, Exit with No Referrals” is that a new policy was initiated statewide which requires that all cases closed are automatically referred, with parent permission, to Help Me Grow. This naturally has increased the number of children exiting the system with a referral.

Alaska

- The State provided the following response to a large Year to Year change: The increase in the exiting reason “Withdrawal by parent (or guardian)” may have been due to the statewide expansion of available services for children birth to 3 years old.

- In 2018, Arkansas restructured their network of services for children which ultimately offered families more choices of where they could enroll their child for services.

Arizona

- The State provided the following response to a large Year to Year change: Arizona reported an increase in the number of children “No longer eligible for Part C prior to reaching age three” as a result of a 2016 policy change. The change requires that children made eligible based solely on informed clinical opinion have an eligibility review within one year. After one year, children who were initially made eligible based on informed clinical opinion and continued to have a significant developmental delay or now had established condition remain eligible for Part C services. Children who showed substantial growth and no longer met Arizona’s definition of developmental delay were exited. Since these children were no longer eligible for Part C, they were exited from the program. Arizona considers the policy change to have been effective because children were no longer showing a significant developmental delay the

Lead Agency provided technical assistance to Early Intervention Programs on implementing the policy change correctly.

At this time, it is not understood why there is a change in the number of families that moved out of state. There is typically fluctuation year over year, but there does not seem to be a clear trend. The Lead Agency will watch the trends in data over the next few years and gather more data and support from the Arizona State Demographer to see if it is a pattern or if the change reflects shifting demographics.

Colorado

- The State provided the following responses to large Year to Year changes:

- Early Intervention (EI) Colorado re-categorized child exit reasons in our state data system on 11/29/2016. The system has the ability to capture detailed information regarding children receiving EI services and collects information from referral through exiting EI services. When a child exits Early Intervention, a user must select a reason why the child is exiting. The exit reasons used needed further delineation and clarification to align with exit reasons updated by the Office of Special Education Programs in September 2016.
- Exit Reason “No longer eligible for Part C prior to reaching age three:” has been re-categorized as a sub-category within the EI Data System under the Exit Reason Withdrawal by parent (or guardian). The Exit data reported for SY 2017-18 reflects this exit reason re-categorization and this accounts for the 37.54% change in Withdrawal by Parent.
- Exit Reason “Not eligible for Part B, exit with no referrals:” There was a larger number of children exiting without the need for a referral to other resources. This is in part to the quality improvement activities conducted as a result of the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) where comprehensive family assessment occurs, possible meaning that appropriate supports were identified prior to exit.
- Exit Reason “Part B Eligibility not determined:” In a review of the year-to-year change, the majority of children exited closed to or right on transition age. Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) is working collaboratively with Part B in order to shore up communication about eligibility when a child is potentially eligible for Part B and receives a Part B eligibility evaluation.
- Exit Reason “Moved out of state:” Reasons for moving are not collected. The cost of housing in Colorado has skyrocketed and could be a contributing factor to families leaving the state.

Delaware

- The State provided the following responses to large Year to Year changes:

- The Hispanic category had a 34% increase primarily due to changes in immigration laws that started in the beginning of 2017. The secondary cause of the increase was a result of better identification and documentation of race as well as ethnicity.
- The 10% decrease of children identified as Caucasian is the result of better identification and documentation of ethnicity.
- A 38% increase in children who are no longer eligible for Part C prior to age three is indicative of therapeutic interventions helping children to meet their goals.
- The Not eligible for Part B, exit with no referrals category showed a 56% increase. This increase was due to reports that families chose to wait to continue to School District services and then by aging out prior to the IEP/Eligibility meeting cause by delays with the School Districts.
- The 44% decrease in Withdrawal by Parent is due to parents being better satisfied by coordination, provider involvement and therapies.

Florida

- The State provided the following response to a large Year to Year change: Florida's Early Steps State Office (ESSO) initiated an ongoing project to review the Early Steps Data System (ESDS) data quality and identify potential issues. The project began late 2017 and started with reviewing system code usage. The review identified several closure codes that were used interchangeably or inappropriately by data entry users in the local level. To address the findings, ESSO disabled duplicative codes and provided definitions for system codes. Closure codes "No longer eligible for Part C prior to reaching age three" and "Part B eligibility not determined" were affected by the inconsistencies. Instead of using these two codes, local programs would use a similar worded closure code or a different one due to previous definitions. ESSO provided updated definitions for closure codes and instructed local programs to update records. This led to an increased count for both closure codes from additional records not included in past reports.

Georgia

The State provided the following responses to large Year to Year changes:

- No longer eligible for Part C prior to reaching age 3: Georgia's eligibility requirements state that once a child is initially eligible for services, they can remain in the program until they turn 36 months. However, the children can exit early if they meet their outcomes. Upon exiting, the program will inform the parents that they can re-contact if they have concerns before the child is 3. For this reporting period, per the annual re-evaluation, most of the children served had caught up developmentally, indicating that they were no longer eligible for early intervention services.
- Withdrawal by parent (or guardian): Georgia's eligibility requirements state that once a child is initially eligible for services, they can remain in the program until they turn 36 months. Enrollment in the Part C program is voluntary and parents have the option to withdraw from services at any time. Upon exiting, the program will inform the parents that they can re-contact us if they have concerns before the child is 3. Georgia serves many children in Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) custody. Parents usually cooperate with the program but withdraw from services once DFCS is no longer involved. Additionally, some parents withdrew because their children had caught up developmentally with same aged peers and no longer wanted direct services or Service Coordination.
- Attempts to Contact Unsuccessful: Several factors contribute to the increase in numbers for this category. For instance, many families in Georgia are transient and move frequently within and out of state which impacts our ability to contact them. Additionally, the immigration laws also affect a high number of our Spanish speaking families and are often hesitant to answer phone calls. In addition, this population often has lower literacy levels and may not respond to attempts to contact them through written correspondence.
- Hispanic/ Latino and Two or More Races: There was a data system glitch that was categorizing children who were Hispanics as Two or More Races in the Year 2016-17. This led to under-reporting of Hispanics and over-reporting of Two or More Races categories. The system glitch was fixed and the numbers for Hispanic/ Latino and Two or More Races reported for the 2017-18 Part C Exiting data are correct.

- During the open review period with our OSEP team lead, it was brought to our attention that Georgia's Part C Exit survey data had the same reporting period for School years 2015-16 and 2016-17. We checked the system and discovered it was a typo in the reporting period for School Year 2015-16, not the data itself. The correct reporting period should have been 7/2014 to 6/2015 which reflects the previous year's Part C exit data that Georgia submitted in the EMAPS system.

Idaho

- The State provided the following response to a large Year to Year change: There are two main reasons for the increases in Undetermined Eligibility for Part B exits:

1. School District Delays: Some school districts were slow in evaluating children and returned the evaluation too close to the 3rd birthday for the Program to register the LEAs' information. One district was refusing to evaluate for Part B eligibility until after the child turned 3. These factors affected two of the three regions with gains in Undetermined exits.
2. Parental Refusal: A larger number of parents refused to participate in the determination, for several reasons: (1) School districts in the region with the biggest increase in Undetermined have recently communicated with families that they are full, and can't place a child on a waitlist, though they will find a place for the child. (2) One won't write a behavioral plan or offer behavioral support until the child has attended preschool for a couple of weeks, causing some families to lose faith in the support for their child.

Idaho is studying the data and processes to identify ways to improve on outcome results.

Indiana

- The State provided the following response to a large Year to Year change: We are finding more children exiting the program with the reason "parent or guardian withdrawal" and believe this to be due to the high number of children referred by the Department of Child Services (DCS) under Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). Many of these families believe they must engage with Part C per DCS; however, once they understand Part C is voluntary they choose to leave the program.

Kansas

- Part B eligible, continuing in Part C: The Kansas Department of Health & Environment, Part C, and the Kansas State Department of Education, Part B, did not choose to implement the "continuation of early intervention (Part C) services" until kindergarten entry as described in 20 U.S.C. 1432(5)(B)(ii) and 1435(c).

Kentucky

The State provided the following responses to large Year to Year changes:

- Part B eligibility not determined: Efforts were made to ensure that transition to the LEA was timely so that Part B eligibility was completed. Significant improvement on this for the largest local lead agency.
- Not eligible for Part B, exit with referrals to other programs: The increase in this item was due to emphasis on ensuring referrals to other programs occurred. It is offset somewhat by the decrease in exit with no referrals.

Louisiana

The State provided the following responses to large Year to Year changes:

- No longer eligible for Part C prior to reaching age three: Louisiana revised its child outcomes measurement process in 2017 resulting in better identification of children who are no longer eligible as compared to the previous year.
- Not eligible for Part B, exit with referrals to other programs & Not eligible for Part B, exit with no referrals: LA Part C eligibility more restrictive than Part B resulting in decrease in those exiting with who do not meet Part B eligibility at exit.
- Attempts to contact unsuccessful: Data are more in line with SY 2015-16 report. An exiting report is being monitored resulting in better tracking of children throughout the Part C System.

- Louisiana does not provide for 3-year-olds to continue in Part C.

Massachusetts

The State provided the following responses to large Year to Year changes:

- The increase in the number of children under “Part B, Eligibility not Determined” is due to a change in methodology of reporting. Massachusetts is able to collect data on children under an opt out status for referral to an LEA and includes this count under this category.
- The decrease in the number of children under “Attempts to Contact Unsuccessful” is due to an error in data compilation. Children who were under three and moved within the state with no further early intervention (EI) services moved from “Attempts to Contact Unsuccessful” to “Withdrawal by Parent.”

Maryland

- The State provided the following response to a large Year to Year change: Not Eligible for Part B, exit with referrals to other programs- Six jurisdictions are responsible for the increase. An average of 6 more children in the six jurisdictions were not eligible for Part B at age 3 and were referral to other community programs. There is a focus for local programs to make sure when a child exits not Part B eligible that the family knows about other community programs available in their communities.

Michigan

- The State provided the following response to a large Year to Year change: A primary reason for the increases in Exit Reason counts for “Withdrawal by Parent” and “Attempts to contact unsuccessful” is that Michigan had a 13% increase in overall exits. This was due to increases in enrollments over the last two years, 11.2% in SY 2016-17 and 9.5% in SY 2017-18. Another reason is that three service areas with large numbers of children who had more than 20% increases in “Unable to contact” exits each described a change in their procedures that exited families they were unable to contact more quickly.

- Michigan does not serve children 3 and older under Part C.

Mississippi

The State provided the following responses to large Year to Year changes:

- Part B eligibility not determined: Because of increased caseloads some service coordinators are unable to attend Part B eligibility meetings or are receiving eligibility status after the child has turned three.
- Attempts to contact unsuccessful: because of staff turnover and high caseloads that only had service coordination as the service; the program experienced high number of cases in where the family was lost due to no contact after the IFSP was signed.

Minnesota

- The State provided the following response to a large Year to Year change: Of concern is the change from 2016-17 to 2017-18 in the number of children who exited Part C and eligibility for Part B had not yet been determined. This number has increased steadily over the three years displayed on the EMAPS report. While the number of children in this category is less than 2 percent of the total number of children that exited, the increase is unacceptable and of concern.

The state suggests that the increase may be attributed to an overall increase in the number of infants, toddlers and preschool children served by the Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) program in our state. Workforce shortages among appropriately licensed professionals has made it difficult for local programs to hire special educators with adequate knowledge and skill.

The Minnesota Department of Education commits to reviewing transition requirements with all local program leaders during our monthly leadership call to remind all leaders, experienced and novice, of these requirements.

Nebraska

- The State provided the following response to a large Year to Year change: Nebraska served more children overall due to increased Child Find efforts. These efforts resulted in more children being served earlier and successfully completing early intervention services. This data increase is reflected in our Birth to three and Birth to one child counts for 2017-18. Additionally, the State provided targeted support to local programs to ensure more valid and accurate data. This includes both entry and exiting data, both of which caused increased numbers both for children served and children exiting.

New York

- The State provided the following response to a large Year to Year change: The toddlers with Part B eligibility not determined increased 56.0% from Program Year 2016 – 17 to Program Year 2017-18; toddlers not eligible for Part B exit with no referrals increased 23.2%; and toddlers not eligible for Part B exit with referrals to other programs increased 239.9%. There were three reasons for the large increases: 1. The Bureau of Early Intervention (BEI) made significant effort to ensure that local Early Intervention Officials and/or their designees (EIO/Ds) closed all cases to eliminate any assumptions on open cases; 2. As the legacy data system completely phased out, BEI reviewed and analyzed new information on Part B eligibility and the transition records from the state data system for more comprehensive reporting on exiting children; 3. Based on this review, we recategorized over 600 toddlers from “not eligible for Part B exit with no referrals” to “not eligible for Part B with referrals to other programs” (documented information on other programs shared with families), resulting in over 900 toddlers not eligible for Part B exit with referrals to other programs.

- The general instructions for reporting require that the 13,121 children turning three prior to the reporting period (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018) be excluded from the report.

Oklahoma

- The State provided the following response to a large Year to Year change: The year to year changes are due to the implementation of clarified procedures regarding sharing community referral information with exiting children, regardless of their potential participation in a Part B program.

- In 2017-18, Oklahoma SoonerStart earnestly trained personnel to enhance exiting with referrals to other programs, reducing the counts of exits with no referrals to zero.

Pennsylvania

- The State provided the following response to a large Year to Year change: In SY 2016-17 “Part B eligibility not determined” represented 8.8% of all exits. In SY 2017-18 this exit reason represents 10.49% of all exits. All other reasons remained stable, with a corresponding 2% shift in the opposite direction for reason “Part B eligible, exiting Part C.” This exit reason represented 41.46% of all exits in SY 2016-17 and then 39.28% in SY 2017-18.

Puerto Rico

- The State provided the following response to a large Year to Year change: Puerto Rico Part C experienced a change of more than 200 children that moved out of the State in SY 2017-18 when

compared with SY 2016-17. The State office did not implement a new method for data collection or to improve data quality, so we can conclude this was a direct effect of the back-to-back hurricanes Puerto Rico experienced in September 2017. Many families throughout the island sought for help in mainland US due to shortage of supplies, outage of electric power, lack of running water and communication networks. For several months after the storms, flights were completely sold out as many people intended to look for shelter with other relatives.

As the PR population and live births has a downward tendency, we experience fewer children exiting Part C services. This has an effect on how many children exit the Program because they are no longer eligible to Part C prior to reaching age three. We have also experienced an increase in children receiving Part C services age 2, who mainly exit Early Intervention because they turn 3, and are either eligible for Part B services, not eligible, or this cannot be determined by the time they exit Part C. This also has an effect on this category and can explain why Puerto Rico reported more than 300 children less in SY 2017-18 than in SY 2016-17.

Rhode Island

The State provided the following responses to large Year to Year changes:

- Rhode Island noted an increase in children who discharged under the categories of Not eligible for Part B exit with referrals to other programs and Part B eligibility not determined. RI had an increase in population and this is represented within these categories. The ratio of total children who exited at age 3 (either to Part B or by other means) and the children in these two categories does not show a significant difference between SY 2016-17 (17%) and SY 2017-18 (20%). The state will continue to monitor this trend and address it if significant changes are noted.
- For SY 2017-18, Rhode Island experienced a significant decrease in children who discharged under the category of Completion of an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) Prior to Reaching Maximum Age for Part C and a significant increase in those children who discharged under the category of Withdrawal by parent (or guardian). This correlated difference is due to providers using the wrong category when discharging children who have met IFSP outcomes prior to age three whose parents have declined an eligibility evaluation to re-determine eligibility. For these cases, providers used the category of Withdrawal by parent (or guardian) instead of Completion of (IFSP) Prior to Reaching Maximum Age for Part C. Providers made the change due to an error in guidance provided by the state regarding which category to use on the states Discharge Form. The error was discovered, and the state has implemented a plan to fix the error. This correction was made in March of 2018 with the implementation of a new Discharge Form that included the correct discharge category with clear definitions and guidance on how to accurately complete the document. Technical Assistance has been provided to all individual RI Early Intervention (EI) programs and a recent look at the data for SY 2018-19 has already shown that this error is correcting.

South Carolina

- The State provided the following response to a large Year to Year change: In SY 2017-18, South Carolina Part C saw an increase in the December 1 Child Count of 13.32%. While there was a corresponding increase in the frequency of eight of the ten exit categories, and a significant increase in the year-to-year frequencies of four of the exit categories, the proportional change from year-to-year exiting in the four categories appears to be in keeping with past years' trends when child count also increased.

- South Carolina's Part C Data system only captures the latest exit reason, regardless of Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) status. The report originally included <20 children with IFSPs and active status, but who exited with invalid exit reasons (most of whom were children with multiple referrals to

BabyNet. Invalid reasons included, No IFSP, Screening Passed at Intake, and No IFSP. Ineligible at Intake for Part C.). Below are examples of how these data issues were resolved:

- Children were removed from the BRIDGES report for the purposes of the EMAPS submission. These are children who had an IFSP in place at some point prior to SY 2017-18, exited prior to SY 2017-18, and had 1 or more re-referrals in SY 2017-18 but no IFSP.
- Children were removed as duplicates of the group above.
- Children were included in the report that had an active IFSP at some point in SY 2017-18 but with multiple exits before and during SY 2017-18. The records of these children were reviewed to determine the exit reason when the IFSP was in place, and the report was amended to include the correct exit reason for SY 2017-18.
- Children were included in the report that had an active IFSP with an exit reason of, Administrative, BNSO Use Only. Upon review of the record the exit reason was revised to reflect the documentation of the service coordinator.

South Dakota

- The State provided the following responses to large Year to Year changes:

- Increased mobility of families noted on those referred by Department of Social Services (DSS) and among the state's Native American population.
- A school district on one of South Dakota's nine reservations has joined with the reservation to offer a second early intervention program in conjunction with their developmental clinic.

Tennessee

- The State provided the following responses to large Year to Year changes:

- Both the decrease in reason, "No longer eligible for Part C prior to reaching age three" and the increase in reason, "Parent withdrawal" are attributed to a change in practice. Tennessee Early Intervention System (TEIS) revised its practice to include formal re-evaluation for the use of exit reason #1 in accordance with guidance from the 2015 IDEA Data Center Part C Exiting Data Toolkit White Paper.
- The increase in reason, "Part B eligibility not determined" is attributed to overall growth in population. Year-to-year changes across both exiting and child count data show significant growth in TEIS, with a 17.85% growth in exiting. Year-to-year changes across the other three Part B exit reasons (not flagged) are in proportion to overall growth. The largest percentage of change occurred in TEIS districts with the largest populations.
- The increase in reason, "moved out of state" is attributed to overall growth in population. Data were reviewed by TEIS district and statewide by counties—the largest percentage of change occurred within the counties with the largest populations.

Virginia

- Virginia Part C does not serve infants and toddlers after the third birthday.

Washington

- The State provided the following responses to large Year to Year changes:

- Overall, there was an increase number of children receiving early intervention services in Washington State. Our cumulative count increased by 9% from the previous year.
- Part B eligibility not determined: This increase is most likely due to the number of parents who did not give permission to initiate the eligibility process for Part B services. Another variable that

may resulted in the increased number was an increase in late referrals (referrals that were within 90 days of child's third birthday) from the previous fiscal year.

- Moved out of State: After further data review, counties that have a higher military population and counties that border other states had an increased percentage in this category. The increase is most likely due to military families leaving the region and families moving between states.

Wisconsin

The State provided the following responses to large Year to Year changes:

- In SY 2016-17 and SY 2017-18, 6% of children left the program due to attempts to contact unsuccessful.
- The state of Wisconsin saw an overall increase of more than 200 children leaving the program in SY 2017-18.

Wyoming

The State provided the following responses to large Year to Year changes:

- The increase in "Not eligible" students is due to Part B eligibility criteria not met for "educational need" description. More adherence to criteria from Part B 619 administrators.
- The difference in "Moved" is due to fewer families moving from state due to increase in mineral sector jobs.
- The difference in "Withdrawal" is due to fewer parents choosing to withdraw from services due to more guidance provided by state concerning FSC monthly contact. Improved communication for responding to parent support and concern for child. More satisfaction with services.