

Part C Exiting Data Notes

2018-19 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(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- The year to year changes in the numbers of exit codes Part B Eligibility not determined and Not eligible for Part B, exit with no referrals could be due to ongoing training initiatives throughout the state on the subject. We continue to stress the importance of using the correct closure reason to all SCs with every TA and PAR. There have been no other changes or initiatives that we feel would affect the data.

Arizona

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- In reviewing the data submitted for exits for SY 2018-19, the number of withdrawals by parent held steady from July 2018 through May 2019. During June 2019, there was an increase in the number of children that were exited due to withdrawals by parents within some regions of the state. During the spring of 2019, the Lead Agency solicited for a new round of Team Based Early Intervention Services contracts in accordance with Arizona procurement code. Families were informed of their right to continue Part C services with a new contractor and provided detailed information regarding the transition.

Several programs did not receive a new contract during the competitive bidding process. Some programs that were not awarded a contract offered their providers positions within private practices. Some families declined a transition to a new team with another program and instead choose to continue with their existing providers outside of Part C services. Programs in areas where a contractor was closing business operations were promptly exiting records in anticipation of the contract transition to ensure children continuing in Part C on July 1, 2019 were transferred. Some families with children turning age three in July 2019 requested to withdrawal from Part C early as they did not want to start with new providers within a few weeks of transitioning to Part B services or other programs.

There were two geographical service regions that did not experience a contractor change and had slightly greater than average withdrawals by parents. It appears the withdrawals in those areas were due to a normal fluctuation of withdrawals by parents. Some families reported their child met all their outcomes requested a withdrawal. Because the child did not undergo a formal evaluation for continued eligibility, they were exited as parent withdrawal rather than exited as no longer eligible for Part C prior to age 3.

Exiting differences between last year and this year are a result of normal fluctuations as well as reflecting family choices during a time of contract transition.

Arkansas

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- The increase in children no longer eligible for Part C prior to reaching age three is due to more children completing their individualized family service plans (IFSP's).
- The decrease in Part B eligibility not determined is due to the increase in the determination of other exiting reasons including children completing their individualized family service plans (IFSP's).
- The increase in children that Moved out of state is due to different family situations requiring them to move out of state.
- The increase in Withdrawal by parent (or guardian) is due to families deciding to explore all options and other programs available within the state.
- The increase of Attempts to contact unsuccessful is due to families not being interested in our program, along with phone numbers changing and being disconnected.

Colorado

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- Early Intervention (EI) Colorado re-categorized child exit reasons in our state data system (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.
- The Exit data reported for SY 2018-19 neglected to reflect this exit reason re-categorization change Exit Reason 1. No longer eligible for Part C prior to reaching age three.
- The Exit data reported for SY 2018-19 neglected to reflect this exit reason re-categorization change in 9. Withdrawal by Parent.

Connecticut

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s)

- Connecticut reviewed the Year-to-Year change for the SY 2017-18 to SY 2018-19 exit data and can find no clear reason why more children exited as not eligible for Part B, exit with no referrals. The overall exit data increased from SY 2017-18 to SY 2018-19. Connecticut will continue to monitor the data and investigate the possible impact of children who are exiting as not eligible for Part B, exit with no referrals.

Delaware

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- There was a 22.60% decrease in the number of children exiting because they were no longer eligible for Part C prior to reaching age three. This decrease is due to more children continuing to be eligible for Part C until they transition to Part B at age 3.

- There was a 23.63% increase in the number of children who were eligible for Part B and transitioned from Part C. State program staff were provided technical assistance by the Department of Education liaisons regarding appropriate transitioning practices to Part B. This resulted in an increase of children continuing to receive services until they transition to the Part B program. Incidentally, the increase in Part B eligible children correlates to the decrease in children no longer eligible for Part C prior to turning age three.
- Delaware acknowledges that there was 47.95% increase in children whose Part B eligibility was not determined at the time of closure at age three. Delaware Part C (the Birth to Three Program) will conduct a trend analysis in collaboration with the early intervention Programs and the Department of Education Liaisons to determine the reason for the increase. Once the reason has been determined, the Birth to Three Program will offer statewide technical assistance in collaboration with the Department of Education Liaisons for appropriate documentation of valid and reliable data.
- The decrease in the number of children exiting Part C because goals have been met is due to children continuing to be eligible for Part C until they transition to Part B at age three. State program staff were provided technical assistance by the Department of Education liaisons regarding appropriate transitioning practices to Part B. This resulted in an increase of children continuing to receive services until they Transitioned to the Part B program. Incidentally, the increase in Transitions correlates to the decrease in the number of children reaching their goals prior to age three.

District of Columbia

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):
 - The District of Columbia Part C program has grown 25% over the previous year. This accounts for the increases in some categories of Exit data.

Florida

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year
 - In 2017, Florida's Early Steps State Office (ESSO) initiated an ongoing project to review the Early Steps Data System's data quality, specifically, system code usage. During this review, it was identified that several disposition codes were being used interchangeably or inappropriately by data entry users at the local level. To address these findings, ESSO disabled duplicative codes and provided definitions for valid system codes and conducted trainings on proper code usage. These findings were captured and reported as a data clarification to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) during last year's 2018 Part C Exiting reporting. These trainings led end users to select more appropriate codes as opposed to the duplicative or obsolete codes that were previously used in the past. This caused total numbers for 2019 to increase or decrease but provided a more accurate representation of proper code usage. Another factor that attributed to an increase in numbers is the overall increase of active children within Florida's Part C program in which the total reported children increased from 54,193 to 57,009.

Georgia

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- Part B eligibility not determined and withdrawal by parent (or guardian): There was a data system glitch that was categorizing children for whom parents did not consent to local education agency (LEA) in transition planning (i.e. Part B eligibility was not determined) as withdrawal by parent or guardian in SY 2017-18. This led to under-reporting of the number of children for the Part B eligibility not determined category and over-reporting of withdrawal by parent (or guardian) category. The system glitch was fixed for SY 2018-19 Part C Exiting data.
- 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.

Idaho

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- Two main factors prompted the uptick in exits classified as No longer eligible for Part C prior to reaching age three or early graduations in SY 2018-19:
 - The two regions that dipped in graduations in SY 2017-18 strongly rebounded in SY 2018-19, accounting for the bulk of the latest year-to-year gains and bringing the proportions of graduations in line with those of SY 2016-17. Without those region's decline in SY 2017-18, the program's overall increase the next year would not be noteworthy.
 - In addition, the statewide program is doing a better job exiting children in a timely manner, because practitioners have increased their monitoring of children's progress throughout their enrollment. Specifically, practitioners have increased eligibility re-verification at annual reviews; and continual tracking of developmental progress, for example with the widespread adoption of a standard tool, the Assessment, Evaluation and Programming System (AEPS). Evidence supporting this as one cause for the uptick is seen in the entry Early Childhood Outcome Ratings (ECOs) of children graduating early this year, SY 2018-19, versus the prior year. This year's early graduates had higher ENTRY ECOs in the two rebounding regions (mentioned above) than they had the prior year.

Illinois

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- Various program initiatives have affected the efforts of ensuring quality of the data. Some of the efforts include: hiring a full-time Data Manager, working with the providers to ensure input of quality data, and increase in frequency of data review.

Iowa

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- Iowa experienced an increase of children in the Part B eligibility not determined category. This increase resulted in a change of +176.67% from the SY 2017-18 collection for this category. Iowa has spent considerable time developing and providing guidance to our local providers regarding the reasons for exiting Part C. Edits made to Iowa's 2018 Procedures Manual Section 19 (Final Exit) included the edited description of BND and additional examples of using the exit code.

Review for section 19 started in March 2018 and edits finalized in June 2018. These edits were based on the description and examples of exit code categories adapted from: Bernstein, H., Gooden, C., Romero, L., and Walters, S. (2018, January). Part C Exiting Toolkit, (Version 1.0). IDEA Data Center. Rockville, MD Westat.

A training video was posted to the Iowa Family Support Network (IFSN) website in July 2019 regarding final exit codes. Iowa continues to provide training on appropriate use of exit codes.

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).

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- Upon review of the Kansas Part C Exiting data for SY 2017-18 and SY 2018-19, an increase of 46.56%, in the category Attempts to contact unsuccessful was identified. There appears to be a large variation in the yearly counts in this category. While all 33 Kansas early intervention programs strive to reduce the counts in this category, some issues are beyond their control. There is a great deal of population movement in these programs, with quantities varying from year to year.

Kentucky

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- Data regarding Part B eligibility and exit referrals due to service coordinators not following up because of referral volume, focus on 45-day timeline and vacancies. Service improvement may account for low parent withdraw.

Louisiana

- Louisiana exits all children at age 3, no continuing eligibility after 3rd birthday.

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- The program has had significant growth over the past 2-3 years, resulting in increased percentage change. However, when the exit reasons are viewed as a percentage of the total exits for each SY 2017-18 and SY 2018-19, the exit reason percentages are consistent.

Maryland

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- Not Eligible for Part B, Exit with No referrals: More children were found Part B eligible at age 3 and stay on an Extended individualized family service plan (IFSP) or move to services through an individualized education program (IEP). More children who are not found eligible for Part B are being referred to other programs (i.e., Headstart, public Pre-K).
- Moved out of State: More families are deciding to move out of the State of Maryland to seek other opportunities for their families.

Michigan

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- The increase in count for the exit reason, No longer eligible for Part C prior to reaching age three, was partially due to an overall increase of 5.0% in Part C Exits. Michigan has had an increase in the number of children receiving Part C services over the past several years and therefore a corresponding increase in the number of children exiting Part C services. Statewide data also reflects that during the time period in which many of these exiting children enrolled, a greater percentage of children with less significant delays were identified for Part C services. This led to the SY 2018-19 collection during which more of the children exited Part C having completed their individualized family service plans (IFSPs) and being no longer eligible for services. There were also fewer children who transitioned to Part B services. Although it did not reach the threshold requiring a comment, the Year-to-Year Exiting data showed a decrease of several children for the exit reason Part B eligible, exiting Part C. Additionally, due to a significant amount of staff turnover coupled with the goal of continuous improvement, technical assistance was provided regarding appropriate selection of exit codes for children exiting Part C. This technical assistance clarified some of the nuances between the various exit codes and a greater understanding of when to select the No longer eligible for Part C prior to reaching age three exit code.

Missouri

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- Attempts to contact unsuccessful: Increases in this category were seen in seven of ten regions across the state. The increase in this category aligns with an overall increase in the number of children exiting the Part C program due to higher numbers of children served.

Nebraska

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- Data variations for No longer eligible for Part C prior to reaching age three and Withdrawal by parent (or guardian) are likely due to the implementation of our new data collection system for SY 2018-19. We are getting data directly from the school district's Student Information Systems. We feel this has improved the timeliness and accuracy of our exiting data. Additionally,

our exiting numbers increased by 7.3%. This increase, along with some redistribution of the exiting reasons, led to increases in these categories.

New Jersey

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- The shifts are reflective of a new position of Service Coordinator Liaison added to the lead agency state staff and focused on improving the capacities of the service coordinators, including providing smooth transitions for children from Part C. Over the past 3 years the New Jersey Early Intervention System (NJEIS) point in time child count increased 14% resulting in NJEIS service coordination units in 19 of 21 counties being identified as needing additional personnel and supports for onboarding and training.

Not eligible for Part B, exit with no referrals shows a decrease of 46%, indicating that service coordination is improving in ensuring families have needed referrals to community resources. Part B eligibility not determined has an increase of 39.44% which the state had identified as an area for targeted technical assistance and root cause analysis specific to the counties that are having difficulties in obtaining and documenting the outcomes of Part B referrals for their caseloads.

New Mexico

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- The identified number from SY 2017-18 of children Eligible for Part B, continuing in Part C is incorrect data entry at the Provider level, as New Mexico does not have extended Part C.

New York

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- The toddlers with Part B eligibility not determined decreased 20.1% from SY 2017-18 to SY 2018-19; toddlers Part B eligible exiting Part C increased 20.3%; and toddlers not eligible for Part B exit with no referrals increased 23.5%. There were two reasons for the large differences:
 1. The Local Early Intervention Programs strived to work with the Local Preschool Special Education Programs to determine eligibility for Part B during the transition, which decreased the number of toddlers Part B eligibility not determined and increased the number of toddlers either eligible or not eligible for Part B.
 2. The Local Early Intervention Programs also worked with the Local Preschool Special Education Programs to transition the Part B eligible children, which increased the number of toddlers found to be Part B eligible exiting Part C.

North Dakota

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- In regard to the change in the exiting category of Moved Out of State, North Dakota has identified two regions on the eastern side of the state with increased numbers in this area. Both regions border another state and frequently see families moving to the neighboring state.

Additionally, one region has a large population of families who live on an Air Force base and has seen an increase in these families being relocated to bases outside of the state. The other region has a large population of New Americans and reports many families are choosing to move out of state to be closer to a support system.

- In regard to the change in the exiting category of Withdrawal by Parent or Guardian, North Dakota identified two regions on the eastern side of the state with increased numbers in this area. A review of program data indicates that families are choosing to withdraw services because they feel their child is meeting milestones and they no longer desire early intervention services. Additionally, one region has seen an increase in families withdrawing from services after county social service involvement with the family ends.

Oklahoma

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- The number of families who identify their children as having Hispanic/Latino ethnicity has dropped dramatically. We suspect this is due to wariness of identifying themselves as Hispanic.
- For not eligible for Part B, exit with referrals to other programs, the State does not have an explanation for the year to year change, other than it being due to the annual variation across exit reasons.

Oregon

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- Increased referrals coupled with increased transiency of parents and students appeared to contribute to a decrease in Part B eligibility determinations in SY 2017-2018. To address this, The Oregon Department of Education provided additional guidance and resources to help programs improve ongoing communication with families, including those who are mobile. This guidance is believed to have increased Part B eligibility determinations which in turn increased referrals to other programs while decreasing parent withdrawals and Part B eligibility not determined.

Puerto Rico

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- The Puerto Rico population and live births have shown a downward tendency for the past years. This reality has had an impact on the number of referrals to Part C, Child Count and thus, in the number of children exiting Part C services in SY 2018-19 when compared with SY 2017-18. This also, has an impact on the number of children that exit the program because they are no longer eligible for Part C prior to reaching age three. Since less infants and toddlers are exiting the Program, less children are placed in this category, specially, when most referrals we receive are from children that are 1 year old and up. In our experience, this means that the children have less time to reach functional outcomes and lose eligibility prior reaching three, although appropriate services were coordinated and provided.

- In SY 2018-19, we observe less children exiting because they moved out of state when compared with SY 2017-18. That year saw the impact of back-to-back hurricanes and several families throughout the island made the decision to move to the mainland United States. Nevertheless, while Puerto Rico was still on recovery after Hurricane Maria for many months, we saw the tendency of families returning to the island after the emergency. Hence, a smaller number of families moved out of the territory in SY 2018-19.
- The Puerto Rico State Office has not experienced a change in data collection protocols or implemented new methods for this purpose. However, the Supervision and Monitoring Unit personnel always emphasizes on improving data collection methods and data quality. The State Office personnel also highlights and provides guidance on improving strategies for service coordination and addressing families, which has an impact on better data quality and more contact with families. As a result, we have fewer exits because of unsuccessful contact. Also, these changes between SY 2017-18 and SY 2018-19 are a result of the reality of the island and continuous training to regional personnel and not from the change in tools or implementation of new strategies.

Rhode Island

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- For SY 2018-19, Rhode Island experienced an expected significant increase in children who discharged under the category of Completion of individualized family service plan (IFSP) Prior to Reaching Maximum Age for Part C and a significant decrease in those children who discharged under the category of Withdrawal by parent (or guardian). In 2017, technical assistance was given to providers to clarify how to document children who discharge due to meeting IFSP outcomes prior to age three and whose parents declined an eligibility evaluation to re-determine eligibility. Providers were incorrectly stating the discharge category as Withdrawal by parent (or guardian) instead of Completion of IFSP Prior to Reaching Maximum Age for Part C. Providers are now using the correct discharge reason for this situation and RI expects to see this trend continue.

South Carolina

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- In SY 2018-19, South Carolina Part C saw an increase in the December 1 Child Count of 10.68%. 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 Dakota

- The State provided the follow response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- Due to implementation of State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) and evidence-based model, families are more engaged in child's early intervention and children are reaching outcomes more quickly.
- In SY 2018-19, A school 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 follow response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- No longer eligible for Part C prior to reaching age three: At a 23.08% increase compared to an overall increase in population of 18.97%, the specific increase is not out of line with the overall population increase. The four percent difference between them can likely be attributed to an increasing population and intentional efforts to identify children who legitimately no longer need services.
- Not eligible for Part B, exit with referrals to other programs: Exit not eligible for Part B population did not significantly change across the state. However, this category (not eligible for Part B exit with referrals to other programs) population did rise. Child population increased in rural counties where Headstart is the primary provider for children age 3 and older. Also, the overall population growth in exiting children accounted for much of the increase.
- Part B eligibility not determined: This increase of 20.27% is comparable to the expected increase in all categories considering an overall growth rate of 18.97%.
- Withdrawal by parent (or guardian): Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO) assessments through the Assessment, Evaluation and Programming System (AEPS) evaluation process that reflect scores comparable with same age peers prompt a discussion with parents regarding child progress. Parents are often satisfied with a child's progress and no longer desire services.
- Attempts to contact unsuccessful: This increase of 21.88% is comparable to the expected increase in all categories considering an overall growth rate of 18.97%.

Texas

- The State provided the follow response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- There was a 1.4% decrease in the children who exited for the reported time period. Amongst those children who exited, there was a 17.3% decrease in the children who were not eligible to Part B. This contributed to a 27.25% decrease in the category for children who are "not eligible to part B and exit to other programs.

Vermont

- The State provided the follow response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- Vermont added the number of children who moved within the state whose families did not reenter early intervention (EI) services after their move, to the number of those children who were withdrawn by parent. Vermont tracks the numbers of children who move within the state to another region. When this occurs, a referral is made to the new region where the child resides. Parents sometimes do not choose to reenter in EI services in that new region. Therefore, the State categorizes this as Withdrawal by parent (or guardian). We had a turnover in Data Managers between the preceding year's data submission and this year's data submission. The Data Manager had not left Standard Operating Procedures related to the 618 exiting data submission and our data validated that these families did not meet the State's criteria of attempts to contact unsuccessful as these families did respond to contact, but their response was to indicate they no longer wanted EI services. When Vermont compared the data of those who moved within the state added to attempts to contact unsuccessful, we see a total in the attempts to contact unsuccessful similar to preceding years. In fact, the quality review of Vermont's data indicates a significant drop in attempts to contact unsuccessful synchronous to the significant increase in withdrawal by parent (or guardian). This is, therefore, directly attributed to the change in Vermont's categorization of moved within the state as meeting the definition of withdrawal by parent (or guardian). Vermont has developed standard operating procedures for this categorization to be followed for future data submissions.

Virginia

- Virginia Part C does not provide free and appropriate public education (FAPE) to children over age 3 in Part C.

Washington

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- As a result of data analysis initially conducted by the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) Data Systems & Analysis Team (D-SAT) and extended data inquiry by members of the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) Data Committee, an explanation for the reason for change is provided for each of the three data inquiries, as numbered below. The increase in numbers of children in this flagged exiting category is consistent with and reflects overall increases in the number of children served by ESIT.
 - No longer eligible for Part C prior to reaching age three: The variance in change from SY 2017-18 to SY 2018-19 is 20.03%. The data show that more children with moderate to mild delays were identified, evaluated, received services and made progress to where they no longer qualified for Part C services prior to reaching age three.
 - Part B eligibility not determined: The variance in change from SY 2017-18 to SY 2018-2019 is 3.14%. There were no emerging patterns or trends identified, rather the increases were relative across the state. ESIT has experienced a 9.4% increase in the

total number of children enrolled in SY 2018-19 and the increase in the flagged category is consistent with this overall increase in the number of children served.

- Withdrawal by parent (or guardian): The ESIT Program experienced a 9.4% increase in the total number of children enrolled in the program overall. The variance in change from SY 2017-18 to SY 2018-19 is 8.37%.

Wyoming

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- Not Eligible for Part B, Exit with No Referrals rate has declined in number. Guidance from state to assist programs in this area. Encourage more exits with referrals to other programs.
- Year to Year change was increased in SY 2018-19 from the SY 2017-18 rate for the exit code Not Eligible for Part B, Exit with No Referrals. Frequency of use increased due to two programs reporting more children who are not eligible for Part B and exited without a referral. Although Wyoming's service coordinators present the same referral options to parents of Part-B-ineligible children as they have for years, ultimately parents make the decision whether to accept the referral. If parents decline, the conclusion is recorded as Not Eligible for Part B, Exit with No Referrals. The increase in overall exits of in ineligible children have shifted the kind of needs and preferences of exiting participants who are not eligible. State guidance has encouraged more children to be referred to other programs to maintain skill levels achieved during the Part C services.