Part C Exiting Data Notes

2014-15 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.

# Kansas

2014-15 Part C Exiting Year to Year Report

There was a significant increase in the category Not Eligible for Part B Exit with no Referrals, of 49.11%. In drilling down the data, Kansas compared rates of individual programs and found that a small regional area of three programs accounted for the majority of the increase while the rest were scattered over the remaining 33 programs with only slight variations from one year to the next. Training and clarification of exit categories led to the changes obtained.

A significant increase was also noted in the category Moved Out of State, a change of 30.84 %. In drilling down the information of changes per program in the year to year data, it was found that four programs accounted for the majority of the children, while the rest were scattered among the other 32 programs. Two of those programs are located in areas with military bases and experience a high rate of families moving in and out of the program. The other two programs are from the larger urban areas of Kansas and the change is attributed to an overall increase in the number of children served this year.

# Michigan

The decrease in “Withdrawal by parent (or guardian) is linked to the increase in the category “Part B eligible exiting Part C”. Michigan is a birth-mandate state so state mandated Special Education services are provided to children ages birth-3. Children eligible for Part B services can be moved from Part C to a 619 program at age two and a half. This led to confusion about the proper Exit code to use for these children – they are Part B eligible but exit Part C prior to their third birthday. After consultation with the OSEP office, the state advised Service Areas to use “Part B eligible exiting Part C” and NOT use the “Withdrawal by parent” option. This year those several Service Areas began the switch. The increase in “Part B eligibility not determined” is related to the decrease in the two categories “Not eligible for Part B (with and without referrals to other programs).” Michigan Part C serves a wider group than just those eligible for Michigan Special Education. Starting three years ago, the state office has been working with Service Areas to base their exit categorization of children on whether a Michigan Special Ed / Part B IEP was held rather than their estimation of the child’s eligibility. This has led to an increase in the number of children correctly identified as having no Part B IEP as opposed to those who were not referred for a Part B evaluation

# Minnesota

Minnesota has been asked to comment on two items from the Year to Year Comparison report.

First is the change from 2013-14 to 2014-15 in the number of children who were determined to no longer be eligible for services under Part B prior to reaching age 3. The change report showed that 76 more children exited prior for this reason in 2014-15 than in 2013-14. It is important to know that 458 more children exited overall in 2014-15 than in 2013-14. Children determined to no longer be eligible for services under Part B prior to reaching age 3 represented 8.1% of all exiters in 2014-15 compared to 7.2% of all exiters in 2013-14. We attribute this change to improved child find that is identifying more children with mild delays who exit appropriately prior to age three through an IFSP team process.

Second is the change in the number of children who were withdrawn by parent or guardian. While the year to year increase of 124 children seems extreme it is important to remember Minnesota’s overall increase in the number of children who exited Part C. Children withdrawn by parent or guardian prior to reaching age 3 represented 12.9% of all exiters in 2014-15 compared to 11.3% of all exiters in 2013-14. The change of 1.6% represents a change that must be carefully monitored to see if it is the beginning of a concerning trend or a one year anomaly. During the 2012-13 school year 12.5% of children exited as a result of parental withdrawal. This proportion is much more like the state’s performance in 2014-15.

# Nebraska

Clarifying that according to Nebraska Rule 52 003.15D, toddlers with disabilities who reach age three during the school year shall remain eligible throughout that school year (ending August 31). Therefore, Nebraska reports children on the exit report under the category of, Part B eligible, continuing in Part C.

Percentage Change – Nebraska has a small infant and toddler population therefore, even small changes in numbers can create a large percent change.

No Longer Eligible for Part C prior to reaching age three – Nebraska had a 26% decrease in this category. With more complex children in the program, especially with emotional and behavioral issues, fewer are leaving the program prior to age 3.

Part B Eligible exiting Part C – Nebraska had a 28% decrease in this category. As children are allowed to stay in the program through the school year in which they turn three, many parents elect this option so as not to disrupt the current program of services.

Part B Eligible continuing in Part C – Nebraska had a 21% increase in this category. As children are allowed to stay in the program through the school year in which they turn three, many parents elect this option so as not to disrupt the current program of services.

Withdrawn by Parent – Nebraska had a 117% increase in this category to 126 children. Often parents of children who were referred via the CAPTA mandate do not elect to continue receiving early intervention services for their children. Nebraska has growing support of the child welfare and court system for ensuring CAPTA referred children continue to receive early intervention services if eligible.

# South Dakota

10. Attempts to contact unsuccessful.

South Dakota experiences high mobility rates in various geographical locations which can present challenges in locating families to continue services.

# Tennessee

In analyzing the Part C exiting information, the Lead Agency performed comparisons of the data for the last two years (FY 2013-14, FY 2014-15) by Early Intervention Service (EIS) programs which are the nine Tennessee Early Intervention System (TEIS) Point of Entry (POE) offices across all exit reasons. It was found that there was one exiting reason above the 20/20 threshold: “618-Completion of IFSP/no longer requires services.”

The decrease in “618-Completion of IFSP/no longer requires services” corresponded to increases in several exit reasons related to eligibility for Part B, (i.e. “618-Not eligible for Part B, Exit with no referrals”, “618-Part B eligibility not determined”, and “618-Part B eligible”) indicating an increased number of children remained in the Part C system through the age of transition to Part B.