

education



The Rights of Infants and Toddlers with Special Needs Eligible for Tennessee's Early Intervention System

Early Intervention is crucial for providing an educational foundation for children with special needs.



Tennessee Early Intervention System

Learn more and contact us:
tn.gov/education/teis
1-800-852-7157

TEIS District Offices

1 First Tennessee District

Johnson City
(423) 434-4401

2 East Tennessee District

Knoxville
(865) 579-3099

3 Southeast District

Chattanooga
(423) 624-6344

4 Upper Cumberland District

Cookeville
(931) 528-1623

5 Greater Nashville District

Nashville
(615) 532-7237

6 South Central District

Murfreesboro
(615) 904-3636

7 Northwest District

Martin
(731) 881-7114

8 Southwest District

Jackson
(731) 421-6830

9 Memphis Delta District

Memphis
(901) 937-6738

(800) 852-7157

The following resources provide more information about rights in early intervention:

- Part C of the Individual's with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Part 303, Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations
- Part 300, Sections 610-627, Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations
- Part 99, Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations

For more information on any of the listed resources, contact:

Tennessee's Early Intervention System
1240 Foster Ave.
Nashville, TN 37243
(800) 852-7157

Tennessee Department of Education
Office of General Counsel
Andrew Johnson Tower, 11th Floor
710 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37243
(615) 313-4731



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Tennessee's Early Intervention System (TEIS)

TEIS is a voluntary educational program for families with children ages birth through two years of age with disabilities or developmental delays. Every state has a Part C program under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and each state decides its own eligibility rules. In Tennessee, children diagnosed with certain disabilities or children whose evaluation results show that they have a 25 percent delay in two developmental areas (motor, communication, etc.) or a 40 percent delay in one area may be eligible for TEIS. Information from the child's doctor as well as the results of a developmental evaluation will determine if a child meets the eligibility criteria. Once eligible, the family may decide to participate in TEIS and an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) team meeting. Services and supports are determined at IFSP meetings based on the child and family's individual needs. IDEA and Tennessee state law describe the rights of parents whose children are eligible for Part C.

Children have the right to:

- **A surrogate parent.**

A surrogate parent must be appointed to represent the interest of a child who has no parent or guardian, is a ward of the state, or the state cannot, after reasonable attempts, locate the child's parent or legal guardian.

Parents have the right to:

- **Consent to evaluation, assessment, and provision of early intervention services.**

Parents have the right to accept or decline any early intervention service without jeopardizing the provision of other services.

- **Review early intervention records.**

Parents have the right to ask to see their child's TEIS record relating to assessment, screening, eligibility determination, and the development and implementation of the IFSP.

- **Receive prior written notice, in their native language if at all possible, when the following actions occur:**

- IFSP meetings are scheduled
- The child was determined ineligible for TEIS services or an evaluation to determine continued eligibility is needed
- TEIS proposes an evaluation for, addition of, or changes to services
- TEIS refuses a parent request for services for their child
- The parent declines an action recommended by the IFSP team
- An eligible child's file is closing

- **Require that personal information be kept confidential.**

Information regarding the child or family may only be shared with other early intervention agencies by written consent of the parent. Release of information without parental consent is only permitted in certain circumstances.

- **File an administrative complaint.**

An administrative complaint is an informal process for resolving conflicts between families and the Part C system, TEIS.

- **Request a mediation.**

A mediation is a process for resolving disagreements between families and the Part C system, TEIS, using an impartial mediator.

- **Request a due process hearing.**

A due process hearing is a formal procedure in which an administrative judge hears from both parties and decides on an outcome. The due process complaint will be resolved within 45 days of request.

- **Forms for any of the above**

may be requested from your service coordinator or from the Tennessee Department of Education's legal department listed on the back of this brochure.

