

Extended Part C Option

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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Contents

A. Extended Part C Option Requirements	3
Question A.1 What are the eligibility criteria for the Extended Part C Option?	3
Question A.2 Can a family whose child’s 3rd birthday is within the allowable date range choose to have their child transition to preschool special education on their 3 rd birthday?	3
Question A.3 What is the requirement to address school readiness?	3
Question A.4 Do the School Readiness IFSP Outcomes need to match the IEP Goals?	3
B. Timelines	3
Question B.1 When should service coordinators start talking to parents on their caseload about the Extended Part C Option?	3
Question B.2 When must service coordinators explain the details of the Extended Part C Option to families on their caseload?	3
Question B.3 When does a family have to make a decision about participation in the Extended Part C Option?	4
Question B.4 How are the transition timelines different for the Extended Part C Option?	4
Question B.5 What timelines apply when a child is referred and determined eligible for early intervention (Part C) services between 2 years 6 months and age 3?	4
C. Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)	5
Question C.1 If there is already a school readiness outcome on the IFSP, do we have to do an IFSP review?	5
Question C.2 If an annual IFSP is due during the Extended Part C period – does a full annual IFSP need to be completed (completing assessments, complete a new family assessment, etc.) or could it just be an IFSP review?	5
Question C.3 If the IFSP review is not conducted before the child’s 3rd birthday due to unforeseen circumstances can EI services continue under the Extended Part C Option?	5
D. Early Intervention (Part C) Services	5
Question D.1 Do children and families who qualify and elect to participate in the Extended Part C Option continue to receive service coordination?	5
Question D.2 Can children and families who qualify and elect to participate in the Extended Part C Option receive all the same early intervention services?	6
Question D.3 When do early intervention services end for children and their families participating in the Extended Part C Option?	6

Question D.4 Are there any changes to the billing process and reimbursement rates for early intervention services provided under the Extended Part C Option?	6
Question D.5 If the AU does not determine the child’s eligibility prior to the child’s third birthday, should Part C services continue past the third birthday?	6
Question D.6 If the AU does not hold an Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting prior to the child’s third birthday, can they still participate in the Extended Part C?	6
Question D.7 What happens if a family that has consented to the Extended Part C Option and then moves to a different AU around the child’s third birthday?	6
E. Part B Preschool Special Education	7
Question E.1 How does the AU document the child’s participation in the Extended Part C Option on the IEP?	7
Question E.2 What start date of IEP services should be entered on the IEP for children participating in the Extended Part C Option?	7
Question E.3 Must the AU provide a copy of the IEP to the EI Entity (usually the Community Centered Board) providing early intervention services to the child and family?	7
F. Eligibility - Preschool Special Education (Part B)	7
Question F.1 If a parent has not provided consent for the initial Part B evaluation, can the evaluation to determine Part B Preschool Special Education eligibility be conducted?	7
Question F.2 Are there any different requirements for the evaluation to determine Part B eligibility for children whose birthday falls within the allowable age range for Extended Part C?	8
G. Parental Consent for the Extended Part C Option	8
Question G.1 Can a child and family qualify for the Extended Part C Option if the family declines special education (Part B)?	8
Question G.2 Can the family withdraw their child and family from the Extended Part C Option during the summer?	8
Question G.3 If the family withdraws consent for the Extended Part C Option and exits early intervention services – can the family change their mind and return to the early intervention program?	8

A. Extended Part C Option Requirements

Question A.1 What are the eligibility criteria for the Extended Part C Option?

Answer A.1 *All of the following criteria must be met in order for the child to be eligible for the Extended Part C Option:*

- *The child is eligible for EI Colorado Part C services;*
- *The child's 3rd birthday is within the allowable date range; and,*
- *The child is determined to be eligible for Part B preschool special education services and has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) developed.*

Question A.2 Can a family whose child's 3rd birthday is within the allowable date range choose to have their child transition to preschool special education on their 3rd birthday?

Answer A.2 *Yes. After having been explained their rights and options, and if their child is determined eligible for IDEA Part B, parents may choose for their child to transition to preschool special education on their 3rd birthday in accordance with the school district calendar.*

Question A.3 What is the requirement to address school readiness?

Answer A.3 *School readiness is required to be addressed for all children in the Extended Part C Option, including:*

- *addressing preliteracy, language, and numeracy skills*
- *Reviewing and revising the IFSP to include outcome(s) related to preliteracy, language, or numeracy skills, if they are not already part of the IFSP outcomes.*

Question A.4 Do the School Readiness IFSP Outcomes need to match the IEP Goals?

Answer A.4 *No, the IFSP outcomes and services are still provided based on the families' concerns and priorities and how the strategies will be implemented within their natural environment. IEP goals are school-based and designed to support the child's access to the general education curriculum.*

B. Timelines

Question B.1 When should service coordinators start talking to parents on their caseload about the Extended Part C Option?

Answer B.1 *Service coordinators should begin talking to parents whose child's 3rd birthday is within the allowable date range around the time of their 2nd birthday to let them know there may be an option to continue in early intervention from their child's 3rd birthday until the beginning of the next school year. This way, they can begin thinking about whether this option would work for their child and family. Use of the Infographics related to the Extended Part C Option will be helpful during this discussion.*

Question B.2 When must service coordinators explain the details of the Extended Part C Option to families on their caseload?

Answer B.2 *Between the child's age of 2 years 3 months and 2 years 9 months, the service coordinator must explain the information in 'A Look at Your Rights and Options after Your Child Turns Three,' including a comparison between Early Intervention (Part C) and Preschool Special Education (Part B)*

services, so that the family can make an informed decision when all requirements have been met. For families whose children qualify after this age, the explanation should happen as soon as possible.

Question B.3 When does a family have to make a decision about participation in the Extended Part C Option?

Answer B.3 Parents can make the decision once their child has qualified for preschool Special Education Services, and the IEP has been developed.

Question B.4 How are the transition timelines different for the Extended Part C Option?

Answer B.4 The regular timelines that apply to transition from early intervention (Part C) to Preschool Special Education still apply to transition under the Extended Part C Option, including AU notification, holding transition conference; Part B eligibility determination, and IEP development. The Extended Part C Option adds additional timelines that must be met for the other required activities. These include:

For all families whose children fall within the allowable range:

- Explain and provide a copy of ‘A Look at Your Rights and Options after Your Child Turns Three’ by 2 years 9 months (or as soon as possible for children who qualify after this time).

For families who have chosen the Extended Part C Option:

- review/revise the IFSP to address school readiness skills by the child’s 3rd birthday and extend the IFSP services provision date; and
- Obtain ‘Informed Consent for Acceptance of Extended Part C Option’ by the child’s 3rd birthday when practicable

See the Infographic ‘Transitioning from Early Intervention (EI) – Extended Part C Option’, which shows the timelines in a graphical format.

Question B.5 What timelines apply when a child is referred and determined eligible for early intervention (Part C) services between 2 years 6 months and age 3?

Answer B.5 The following timelines apply:

- If a child is found eligible between the age of 2 years 6 months and 2 years 10.5 months, AU notification, including sharing of evaluation information with parental consent, must occur as soon as possible and not later than ten business days after the eligibility determination. All other timelines remain unchanged.
- For children referred to EI less than 45 days before the child’s 3rd birthday, the referral should go directly to the Administrative Unit (AU) and is not counted in the Early Intervention Part C data requirements. Children referred within this timeframe (Less than 45 days before the 3rd birthday) are not eligible for the Extended Part C Option because they will not have qualified for Part C.

C. Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)

Question C.1 If there is already a school readiness outcome on the IFSP, do we have to do an IFSP review?

Answer C.1 Yes, an IFSP review does need to be conducted even if outcomes related to school readiness are already part of the IFSP. This can be a brief review with the family to consider whether any changes need to be made during the Extended Part C Option. This may be a Periodic Review or an Annual Review, depending on the review cycle that has been in place for the child. Reminder: the review will need to be created in the EI Data System (Unicorn). As a part of the review, it is important to make sure the end dates of the services extend to the end of the Extended Part C Option period i.e., until the start date of services communicated as the start date for the school year after the child's third birthday as communicated by the AU.

Question C.2 If an annual IFSP is due during the Extended Part C period – does a full annual IFSP need to be completed (completing assessments, completing a new family assessment, etc.), or could it just be an IFSP review?

Answer C.2 Yes, however, if the child's birthday is within the allowable range for the Extended Part C Option, it is recommended that the annual IFSP be completed early, i.e., before the child's third birthday, to address the requirement for school readiness outcomes. Assessment information from the Part B evaluation and IEP may be used (when obtained from AU via written consent on a release of information form from the parent) as part of the annual IFSP assessment requirement in the areas of development assessed.

The family assessment information can transfer over, and a full family assessment does not need to be completed. The purpose of the family assessment at this point would be to determine ways the school readiness outcomes may be embedded throughout the day in the child and family's daily routines. Note: assessment information from the Global Outcome Exit Ratings can also be used for the IFSP development. Global Outcomes Exit Ratings must still be finalized and entered into the EI Data System (Unicorn) between 2 years 9 months and age 3.

Question C.3 If the IFSP review is not conducted before the child's 3rd birthday due to unforeseen circumstances, can EI services continue under the Extended Part C Option?

Answer C.3 Yes, EI services can continue and the IFSP review must be scheduled and conducted as soon as possible.

D. Early Intervention (Part C) Services

Question D.1 Do children and families who qualify and elect to participate in the Extended Part C Option continue to receive service coordination?

Answer D.1 Yes, service coordination is a mandated service under Part C of IDEA, provided at no cost to families and this continues during the Extended Part C Option. Service Coordinators play a key role in helping plan a child's transition to Part B Preschool Special Education, including for children in the Extended Part C Option.

Question D.2 Can children and families who qualify and elect to participate in the Extended Part C Option receive all the same early intervention services?

Answer D.2 Yes, in addition to any needed outcomes to address preliteracy and prenumeracy, the same appropriate early intervention services are expected to be provided to support the family in promoting their child's development and learning during the Extended Part C Option, in accordance with their IFSP. Services are based on the strategies that are needed in order to meet the IFSP outcomes.

Question D.3 When do early intervention services end for children and their families participating in the Extended Part C Option?

Answer D.3 Early intervention services, including service coordination, must end the day before the start date for preschool special education services on the child's IEP.

Question D.4 Are there any changes to the billing process and reimbursement rates for early intervention services provided under the Extended Part C Option?

Answer D.4 No, under the Extended Part C Option early intervention services, including service coordination, are billed at the same rates, and using the same billing processes. A reminder that the end dates for EI services on the IFSP must be extended to the end of the Extended Part C Option period in order to bill for those services. However, services covered under the EI Services Trust for private insurance are currently not billable for the Extended Part C Option. So, if the child's regular Part C services were billed through the EI Services Trust, the billing must go to the next available funding source on the funding hierarchy (public insurance such as Medicaid or CHP+ or EI State Funds).

Question D.5 If the AU does not determine the child's eligibility prior to the child's third birthday, should Part C services continue past the third birthday?

Answer D.5 Yes, the Early Intervention (EI) Entity must continue to provide all early intervention services on the IFSP beyond the child's third birthday until that toddler's initial eligibility determination under IDEA Part B is made. This provision does not apply if the AU has requested parental consent for the initial evaluation and the parent has not provided that consent.

Question D.6 If the AU does not hold an Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting prior to the child's third birthday, can they still participate in the Extended Part C?

Answer D.6 Yes, the EI Entity must continue to provide all early intervention services on the IFSP beyond the child's third birthday until the IEP meeting is held, at which time the parent can make the choice whether or not to extend Part C services.

Question D.7 What happens if a family that has consented to the Extended Part C Option and then moves to a different AU around the child's third birthday?

Answer D.7 The child and family can continue to receive early intervention services under the Extended Part C Option and the service coordinator can help the family transition to the new AU and to a new EI Entity as appropriate.

E. Part B Preschool Special Education

Question E.1 How does the AU document the child’s participation in the Extended Part C Option on the IEP?

Answer E.1 *The AU will obtain written consent from the parent for the initial provision of special education services.*

- *After the development of IEP, if a parent chooses the Extended Part C Option, preschool special education IEP services will start at the beginning of the school year following their child’s third birthday.*
- *The AU must document the parent choice to participate in the Extended Part C Option services. A Prior Written Notice (PWN) must indicate the parent’s choice to delay the initiation of Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) identified in the IEP from a start date on or before the child’s third birthday to the first day of school so that the child can receive Extended Part C services.*

It is recommended that:

- When a parent chooses the Extended Part C Option at the end of the IEP meeting, the decision can be documented in the ‘Other Factors Considered’ section of the IEP embedded PWN.*
- When a parent chooses the Extended Part C Option after the day of the IEP meeting, a new ‘Prior Written Notice of Special Education Action’ be issued. The new PWN will indicate that the AU proposes to initiate the provision of FAPE on the start date of the following school year because the parent chooses the Extended Part C Option. The AU must edit the start date of the IEP accordingly and send a copy of this updated IEP with the PWN to the parent.*

Question E.2 What start date of IEP services should be entered on the IEP for children participating in the Extended Part C Option?

Answer E.2 *The AU should enter the first day of school for the school year following the child’s third birthday as the start date for preschool special education services when the Extended Part C Option is chosen. See Question E1 for information regarding required documentation.*

Question E.3 Must the AU provide a copy of the IEP to the EI Entity (usually the Community Centered Board) providing early intervention services to the child and family?

Answer E.3 *No, there is no requirement for AUs to provide the EI Entity with a copy of a child’s IEP. The service coordinator may obtain a copy of the IEP from the AU via the parent’s written consent with a Release of Information form or may obtain a copy of the IEP from the parent.*

F. Eligibility - Preschool Special Education (Part B)

Question F.1 If a parent has not provided consent for the initial Part B evaluation, can the evaluation to determine Part B Preschool Special Education eligibility be conducted?

Answer F.1 *No, parental consent for the initial evaluation must be obtained from parents before the evaluation can take place.*

Question F.2 Are there any different requirements for the evaluation to determine Part B eligibility for children whose birthday falls within the allowable age range for Extended Part C?

Answer F.2 *No, all requirements remain the same.*

G. Parental Consent for the Extended Part C Option

Question G.1 Can a child and family qualify for the Extended Part C Option if the family declines special education (Part B)?

Answer G.1 *No. The purpose of the Extended Part C Option is to provide a bridge from Early Intervention to preschool special education and to prepare the child for preschool.*

Question G.2 Can the family withdraw their child and family from the Extended Part C Option during the summer?

Answer G.2 *Yes, the family may withdraw their ‘Informed Consent for Acceptance of Extended Part C Option’ at any time. If consent is withdrawn by the parent before their child turns 3 they would exit Part C at their child’s 3rd birthday. If consent is withdrawn during the summer following the child’s third birthday, the child would exit Early Intervention (Part C) at that time and begin preschool special education on the first day of the school year following the child’s third birthday.*

Question G.3 If the family withdraws consent for the Extended Part C Option and exits early intervention services – can the family change their mind and return to the early intervention program?

Answer G.3 *If a parent chooses to exit Part C services and then requests to return to early intervention prior to the child’s 3rd birthday they can re-enroll. However, if the child is over age 3 and receiving early intervention services under the Extended Part C Option at the time they withdraw, they cannot re-enroll in the Extended Part C Option.*