



# **Improving Services for Infants and Toddlers: Tennessee's Early Intervention System State Systemic Improvement Plan**

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# TEIS Overview

Tennessee's Early Intervention System (TEIS) is an educational program for families with children age birth to three with disabilities or developmental delays.

TEIS provides services as outlined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)



# TEIS Eligibility

- Children diagnosed with certain disabilities
  - Diagnosed condition list is available on the TEIS website:  
[www.tn.gov/education/teis](http://www.tn.gov/education/teis)
- Children who show a 25% delay in two developmental areas: motor, communication, cognition, social, and adaptive, or
- Children with a 40% delay in one area
- Eligibility determined through multi-disciplinary approach, including a review of medical records



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# State Systemic Improvement Plan

# Compliance vs. Results

A focus solely on compliance has not lead to improved outcomes for infants and toddlers and their families

The State Systemic Improvement Plan is focused on *results* at the child level

# Plan Development & Implementation (2014-2020)

## Phase III:

- Evaluate progress annually
- Adjust plan as needed

How well is the solution working?

## Phase I:

- Initiate data analysis
- Identify problem area (SiMR, e.g., child outcomes for low income children)

What is the problem?



What shall we do about it?

Why is it happening?

## Phase I and II:

- Search/evaluate evidence-based solutions (Exploration Phase)
- Select Improvement strategies
- Develop Theory of Action
- Develop and implement plan for improvement (Implementation Framework)

## Phase I:

- Conduct infrastructure analysis to identify system strengths and barriers
- Conduct root cause analysis to identify contributing factors

Adapted from: Western Regional Resource Center.

# Root Causes of Low Performance

- Factors limiting family engagement in early intervention
- ECO measurement/data
- Screening/eligibility processes
- Service coordinator caseloads

# Impact of Low Socioeconomic Status on TEIS Children

- Referral less likely to result in an IFSP
- Average length of time in services is lower
- Less likely to exit TEIS at the level of same age peers



# Tennessee's Early Intervention System

## State Systemic Improvement Plan Theory of Action

### Improvement Strategy

### If the State ...

### Then Local Programs ...

### Then Families ...

### Then ...

Eligibility Procedures

Improves procedures for screening and evaluating potentially eligible infants/toddlers ...

... Implement improved procedures so fewer children are found initially ineligible and later identified as eligible

... Are engaged sooner, allowing them to have increased time participating in early intervention

The percent of infants and toddlers who demonstrate improved *acquisition and use of knowledge and skills* and who function within age expectations by the time they exit or turn age three will increase

IFSP Team Function

Establishes clear expectations for the role of the IFSP team and the contributions of its members, including families, in achieving child outcomes ...

... Have well-functioning IFSP teams that are more coordinated in their implementation of early intervention services, targeting acquisition of knowledge and skill development

... Are understanding of, focused on and supported in their efforts to maximize their child's development

Family Centered Services

Evaluates program quality and increases early intervention provider competence and confidence to implement family centered early intervention, which includes services based on child and family needs, routines, and natural environments ...

... Implement quality family centered early intervention statewide

... Are active and knowledgeable participants in supporting their child's development

Early Childhood Outcomes Data

Implements measures to improve processes for accurate data collection and dissemination to increase providers' overall understanding of ECO data ...

... Consistently value, collect and use ECO data as a measure of program and child performance

... Are involved in the ECO process and supported in their efforts to maximize their child's success

# For More Information

[www.tn.gov/education/teis](http://www.tn.gov/education/teis)



Department of  
**Education**

Tennessee Early  
Intervention System

**Learn more and contact us:**  
[tn.gov/education/section/early-learning](http://tn.gov/education/section/early-learning)  
1-800-852-7157



# Contact Us

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