



Part C Exiting Data Collection (Table 3)

Questions and Answers

Reviewed March 2012 (no changes to document dated December 2010)

The purpose of this document is to assist states with collection of data about children with disabilities served under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C, who exited. States should use this document to supplement the General Instructions provided in Table 3.

1. Should a state report only the exits of children included in the child count?

No. The states should report the number of infants and toddlers with disabilities who, during the 12-month reporting period, either no longer received services under Part C prior to age 3 or reached age 3.

2. What are the start and end dates of the 12-month reporting period?

The state decides what start and end dates to use for the 12-month reporting period (e.g., July 1 through June 30). This 12-month window (reporting period) should be the same for each annual report of these data. The state must indicate on the form the specific 12-month period the state used for reporting.

If the state used July through June as its reporting period last year, the state should use July through June as its reporting period this year. If the state used January through December as its reporting period last year, the state should use January through December this year.

3. How should a state report children who exit Part C more than once during the reporting period? For example, a state had a child move out of the state at the beginning of the reporting period, return to the state and reenter Part C a few months later, and then the parent withdrew the child from Part C services before the end of the reporting period. How should the state report this child?

If a child exits Part C more than once during the reporting period and is not in Part C at the end of the reporting period, the state should report the final exit only. In the example, the child would be reported as *withdrawal by parent (or guardian)*. However, if the child is under age 3, has an active IFSP in Part C, and Part B eligibility was not determined at the end of the reporting period, the state should not report an exit for the child.

4. How should a state report a child who moves, but does not leave the state?

If the child moves and, at the end of the reporting period, the state knows that the child and family are enrolled in early intervention somewhere in the state, the state should not report the

child as an exit. However, if the child moves and the state cannot determine whether he/she is receiving early intervention services elsewhere in the state, the state should report the child in the *attempts to contact unsuccessful* category.

5. If a state does not know whether a child who is eligible for Part B actually enters Part B services, how should the state report that child?

If the child is evaluated and determined to be eligible for Part B, the state should report the child as *eligible for Part B, exiting Part C*. It is not necessary for the state to know whether the child actually enters Part B services.

6. If a state's Part C eligibility criteria are aligned with the Part B eligibility criteria and the state does not evaluate children for Part B eligibility, may the state report all children in Part C who reach age 3 as *eligible for Part B, exiting Part C*?

Yes, if all children who are eligible for Part C are also eligible for Part B and, therefore, the state does not evaluate for Part B eligibility, the state may report all children who reach age 3 in the exit category *eligible for Part B, exiting Part C*.

7. What if a state cannot determine the child's Part B eligibility because the parent refuses to give consent for transition planning? How should a state report this child?

If a parent refuses to give consent for transition planning before the child turns 3, the state may report the child in the exit category *not eligible for Part B, exit with no referral*. However, all other children whose eligibility has not been determined as of the child's third birthday should be reported in the exit category *Part B eligibility not determined*.

8. Some children enter Part C so close to their third birthday that the state has insufficient time to complete eligibility determination before the children turn 3. Should a state report these children in the *eligibility not determined* category?

Yes, even if the child entered Part C close to his/her third birthday. If the child's Part B eligibility was not determined as of his/her third birthday, then the state must report the child in the exit category *Part B eligibility not determined*.

9. The data collection instructions have two possible categories for reporting children who are not eligible for Part B: *exit with referrals to other programs* and *exit with no referrals*. How should a state decide which category to use? Does the child have to enter another program to be reported in the category *not eligible for Part B, exit with referrals to other programs*?

No, the *exit with referral* category does not require that the child and family actually follow through on a referral. However, keep in mind that a referral to another program is something the Part C program decided to do. It does not refer to something the child and family does or asks for. It also does not refer to assisting the family to accomplish a family-initiated activity.

10. If the child is not eligible for Part B, which exit category should a state use to report the following scenarios?

- a. The family decides on its own to enroll in a Gymboree program.
- b. The family decides on its own to pursue physical therapy after the summer.
- c. The family is planning to keep the child home until age 4 when the family might look into a school readiness program.
- d. The family tells the service coordinator that it plans to enroll in a therapeutic play group.

For all of the scenarios above, the state should report the child as *not eligible for Part B, exit with no referral* since none of them were Part C program decisions to refer the child to another program.

11. If a state’s policy is to refer all children and families to other programs and, in all likelihood, the children were referred, how should a state report children not eligible for Part B for whom specific referral information is not available. Can the state report these children as *not eligible for Part B, exit with referral*?

No, if the state does not know whether a child was referred to another program and that child was determined to be ineligible for Part B, then the state should report the child as *not eligible for Part B, exit with no referral*.

The Data Accountability Center (DAC) produced this document under U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs Grant No. H373Y070002. Meredith Miceli and Kelly Worthington served as the project officers. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the positions or policies of the Department of Education. No official endorsement by the U.S. Department of Education of any product, commodity, service or enterprise mentioned in this publication is intended or should be inferred. This product is public domain. Authorization to reproduce it in whole or in part is granted. While permission to reprint this publication is not necessary, the citation should be:

Data Accountability Center (March 2012). Part C Exiting Data Collection (Table 3), Westat, Rockville, MD.

