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# State Systemic Improvement Plan

Implementation and Evaluation

**2022 — 2025**



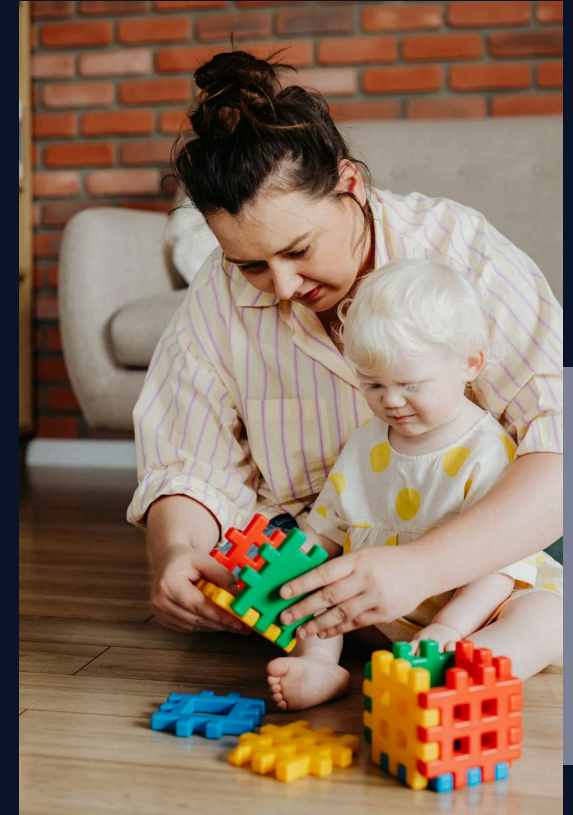
Department of  
**Disability & Aging**

Tennessee Early  
Intervention System



## About TEIS

Tennessee Early Intervention System (TEIS) is a voluntary program housed in the Tennessee Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities that offers therapy and other services to families of infants and young children with developmental delays or disabilities. Services are provided at no cost to families. TEIS is critically important to supporting the development of Tennessee children with disabilities and developmental delays as they prepare for school.



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# State Systemic Improvement Plan

## Overview

The State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) is a long-range plan to improve results for children receiving services through TEIS. The SSIP includes an evaluation plan identifying measurable outcomes at both the program level through infrastructure improvements and at the individual child level.

The plan is a federal requirement and progress is reported in the Annual Performance Report (Indicator 11), which is available on the TEIS website.



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# Objective

State-Identified Measurable Result

The percent of infants and young children 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.

*Early Childhood Outcome 3B, Summary Statement 2*



# Theory of Action



## IFSP Teaming

If all children served by TEIS have Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) teams who communicate regularly and collaborate effectively to support the child's progress...



## Family Centered Services

If services to children are delivered by professionals using evidence-based practices across a variety of service settings/modalities...



## Early Childhood Outcomes Data

If families and early intervention service providers base decisions on meaningful child progress data....

...then the percent of infants and young children 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 Teaming

**Goal: All children served by TEIS have IFSP teams who communicate regularly and collaborate effectively to support the child's progress**

## Activities

1. Build relationships between TEIS staff, early intervention (EI) service providers, and families by offering opportunities for engagement
2. Implement a comprehensive training plan for TEIS staff and providers
3. Provide opportunities, through a variety of channels, for regular communication between TEIS leadership, TEIS staff, and EI service providers
4. Ensure IFSP team members receive timely, accurate and consistent guidance and have accessible guidance manuals

## Measurable Results

- Attendance at regional Time for Teaming events
- Attendance/completion rate of trainings and high satisfaction on feedback surveys
- Increase in team member participation rate at annual IFSP meetings over baseline
- Documentation by all EI service providers in shared data system
- Decrease in requested review IFSP meetings held to adjust services over baseline



# Family Centered Services

**Goal: Services to children will be delivered using evidence-based practices (e.g. DEC Recommended Practices, FGRBI)**

## Activities

1. Implement a comprehensive training plan for TEIS staff and providers
2. Utilize partnerships to implement a coaching mentor program for EIs as selected by their agency
3. Ensure a regularly-updated Provider Guidance Manual is available for all contracted EI service providers
4. Review and revise the scope of services for EI service contracts for the contract cycle beginning in 2024 to reflect current practices
5. Support EI providers in accessing and utilizing data to drive decisions about their program

## Measurable Results

- Attendance/completion rate of trainings and high satisfaction on feedback surveys
- State and EI provider agency level data demonstrating service delivery quantity and quality

# Family Centered Services

**Goal: Families will have the opportunity to select from EI services across settings and modalities (home/community, telehealth, clinic/other)**



## Activities

1. Engage in an EI career awareness campaign to increase recruitment efforts for professionals to the EI workforce
2. Partner with state universities to develop an EI TN Endorsement to encourage college students into careers in EI
3. Utilize stakeholder groups to explore recruitment avenues for new agencies and expansion opportunities for current services
4. Implement a statewide service coordination team within TEIS to address vacancies and stabilize caseloads

## Measurable Results

- The number of contracted service hours will increase over baseline
- TEIS will maintain caseloads at targeted levels

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# Early Childhood Outcomes Data

**Goal: Families and EI service providers will base decisions on meaningful child progress data from entrance to exit from services**

## Activities

1. Implement revised process for assessing present levels of development at eligibility, annual IFSP reviews, and for ECO data collection using a single instrument
2. Revise infrastructure to support changes to practices (contracts, forms, data system)
3. Develop materials to communicate changes and guidance to the field
4. Support implementation of changes; collect data regularly
5. Develop revised ECO data reporting procedures that account for the change in instrument and the Extended Option
6. Determine needs for aggregate and individual child progress/outcomes reports and develop resources

## Measurable Results

- Progress Toward Goals data and Early Childhood Outcomes data will demonstrate progress as a result of participation in EI services
- Children will be retained in EI services long enough for IFSP teams to gather progress data





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