



Department of

**Disability & Aging**

Tennessee Early  
Intervention System

# TEIS EXTENDED OPTION

*What Families Need to know*



# TEIS EXTENDED OPTION

## What Families Need to Know

The TEIS (Tennessee Early Intervention System) Extended Option allows current families to continue receiving early intervention services through an IFSP (Individualized Family Service Plan) beyond age three (3) if the child is determined eligible for preschool special education services.

### Overview

#### IFSP Option through TEIS (Part C)

To choose the IFSP option, your child must have a current IFSP through TEIS and your local education agency (LEA) must have determined that your child is eligible for Part B services under Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

If eligible, your child will continue to receive services through an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

A TEIS service coordinator supports IFSP development & implementation.

The extended IFSP process offers family support and training, which includes an education component that promotes school readiness and incorporates pre-literacy, language, and numeracy skills.

Services are provided in natural environments year-round.

At any time, you may terminate TEIS services and choose Part B services through your LEA. IFSP services continue until IEP services are scheduled to begin or until the beginning of the school year following the child's fifth (5th) birthday, whichever occurs sooner.

#### Rights of Enrolled Children

- Parent Consent to Evaluation
- Parent Consent to Provision of Services
- Review of Records
- Prior Written Notice in Native Language
- Confidentiality
- Dispute Resolution
  - Administrative Complaint
  - Mediation
  - Due Process Hearing
- Parent Surrogate

#### IEP Option through School System (Part B)

To choose the Individualized Education Program (IEP) option, your local school district, also called a local education agency (LEA), must conduct an initial evaluation and determine that your child has a qualifying disability and needs special education and related services under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

If eligible, your child will receive services through an IEP. Eligibility criteria for a disability under Part B of the IDEA is different than eligibility under Part C. Having received services through an IFSP does not guarantee that a child will be eligible for an IEP.

The IEP team, which includes the parent and members of the school district, facilitates IEP development & implementation.

The IEP process offers child-centered support addressing educational needs resulting from the disability by guaranteeing the child a free appropriate public education (FAPE).

All special education and related services are provided by the LEA and are provided in the least restrictive environment (LRE) to the maximum extent appropriate.

Once you terminate TEIS services and submit written notification to pursue IEP services through your LEA, the choice to return to TEIS is no longer available.

#### Rights of Enrolled Children

- Parent Consent to Evaluation
- Parent Consent to Provision of Services
- Review of Records
- Prior Written Notice in Native Language
- Confidentiality
- Dispute Resolution
  - Administrative Complaint
  - Mediation
  - Due Process Hearing
- Parent Surrogate
- Independent Educational Evaluation

# What is...

## ... an IFSP

An Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) is a written plan for providing early intervention supports and services to an eligible child and the family.

The IFSP is reviewed at least every six (6) months and revised at least annually by the IFSP team, which includes you as the parent.

The IFSP includes family priorities and concerns, child's present levels of development, early intervention services, and measurable child and family outcomes including an educational component that promotes school readiness.

The IFSP focuses on your child **and** family within your daily routines.

# Services through

## ... an IFSP

Part C services focus on building the capacity of your family to support your child's successful participation in daily activities and routines.

IFSP services may include, but are not limited to:

- Assistive technology services, which may include assistive technology devices
- Audiology services
- Developmental therapy
- Interpreting Services
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Psychological services
- Service coordination
- Speech and language pathology services
- Transportation
- Vision services

TEIS provides year-round services for children.

## ... an IEP

An Individualized Education Program (IEP) is a written plan for providing special education and related services to a student with a disability eligible under Part B of the IDEA.

The IEP is reviewed and revised at least annually by an IEP team, which includes you as the parent.

The IEP includes present levels of educational performance, measurable annual goals, special education and related services, supplementary aids and services, program modifications and supports, and individual accommodations as necessary.

The IEP focuses primarily on your child's access to and participation in educational activities in the least restrictive environment.

## ... an IEP

Part B services provide individualized instruction ensuring your child's access to general education curriculum to meet outlined educational standards.

Related services, if determined necessary by the IEP team, to enable your child to benefit from special education may include:

- Assistive technology services, which may include assistive technology devices
- Audiology services
- Early identification and assessment services
- Interpreting services
- Medical services for diagnostic or evaluation purposes
- Occupational therapy
- Parent counseling and training
- Physical therapy
- Psychological services
- Recreation, including therapeutic recreation
- School health services
- School nurse services
- Social work services
- Speech and language pathology services
- Student counseling services, including rehabilitation counseling
- Transportation
- Vision services, including orientation and mobility services

LEAs provide services during the school year. Extended school year services may be available if determined necessary by the ISP Team.

# Environments

## Natural

To the maximum extent appropriate, services will be provided in natural environments, including your home and community settings that are natural or normal for your child's typically developing peers. Services will only be provided in settings other than the natural environment when it is determined that the desired outcome/s cannot be satisfactorily achieved within the natural environment.

Examples of **natural environments** may include:

- Home
- Public or private community settings including but not limited to:
- Public school preschool and pre-kindergarten programs
- Private community preschool and pre-kindergarten programs
- Head Start/Early Head Start
- Child care centers
- Family child care providers
- Parks and recreation programs
- Cooperative play groups
- Libraries
- Other child serving programs

# Systems of Payment

You will not be charged out of pocket expenses for services.

Medicaid/TennCare and/or private insurance may apply to IFSP services consistent with parental consent and notification requirements as appropriate.

## Least Restrictive

LEAs are obligated to educate students with disabilities alongside students without disabilities to the maximum extent appropriate. LEAs are required to offer a continuum of placements, including:

- General education settings
- Special classes
- Special schools
- Home instruction
- Instruction in hospitals
- Residential facilities

The IEP team must determine the least restrictive environment.

You will not be charged out of pocket expenses for services.

Medicaid/TennCare may apply to IEP services consistent with parental consent and notification requirements as appropriate.

# More Family Resources

For additional information, contact your Point of Entry office:

**First Tennessee (Johnson City)** (423) 434-4401

Carter, Cocke, Greene, Hancock, Hamblen, Hawkins, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, Washington

**East (Knoxville)** (865) 579-3099

Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Claiborne, Grainger, Jefferson, Knox, Loudon, Monroe, Morgan, Roane, Scott, Sevier, Union

**Southeast (Chattanooga)** (423) 624-6344

Bledsoe, Bradley, Grundy, Hamilton, McMinn, Marion, Meigs, Polk, Rhea, Sequatchie

**Upper Cumberland (Cookeville)** (931) 528-1623

Cannon, Clay, Cumberland, DeKalb, Fentress, Jackson, Macon, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, Smith, Sumner, Trousdale, Van Buren, Warren, White

**Greater Nashville (Nashville)** (615) 532-7237

Cheatham, Davidson, Dickson, Montgomery, Robertson, Wilson

**South Central (Murfreesboro)** (615) 904-3636

Bedford, Coffee, Franklin, Giles, Hickman, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Marshall, Maury, Moore, Perry, Rutherford, Wayne, Williamson

**Northwest (Martin)** (731) 881-7114

Benton, Carroll, Crockett, Dyer, Gibson, Henry, Houston, Humphreys, Lake, Lauderdale, Obion, Stewart, Weakley

**Southwest (Jackson)** (731) 421-6830

Chester, Decatur, Fayette, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, McNairy, Madison, Tipton

**Memphis Delta (Memphis)** (901) 937-6738

Shelby

## Online Resources

For more information and resources about the **IFSP Option through TEIS** (Part C), please visit:

<https://tn.gov/disability-and-aging>, [Search for TEIS](#)

For more information and resources about the **IEP Option through the school system** (Part B), please visit:

<https://www.tn.gov/education/student-support/special-education/special-education-section-619.html>



*Department of Disability and Aging (DDA) Authorization No. 344123 2,700 copies printed.  
This public document was promulgated at a cost of \$0.56 per copy, December, 2022.*