

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

TO: Birth to Three Early Intervention Service (EIS) Providers
Superintendents of Schools
Special Education Directors

FROM: Beth Bye, Commissioner, Office of Early Childhood
Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, Commissioner, State Department of Education

DATE: April 24, 2020

RE: Coronavirus Memo # 19
Expanded Definition of Children Eligible for Birth to Three services

This joint memo is issued by the Commissioners of the Office of Early Childhood and the State Department of Education to respond to the need for remote early intervention services to continue beyond age three for certain children while school classes are disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Based on Governor Lamont's Executive Order 7DD, the Office of Early Childhood temporarily expands the definition of "eligible children" contained in Section 17a-248 of the Connecticut General Statutes to include children who turn older than thirty-six months of age on or after March 16, 2020, who are presently engaged in early intervention services and not already determined to be eligible for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B, to further supplement access to services during the period of school class cancelations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This important change ensures that Birth to Three programs may continue to provide remote early intervention services after age three for children who are potentially eligible for preschool special education, if public health mandates for social distancing delay transition evaluations related to special education services.

The Interim Exit-Transition Procedure has been posted on the Birth to Three website at <https://www.birth23.org/providers/provider-resources/procedures/>

State Department of Education guidance for Local Education Agencies is available at <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Special-Education/Covid/Guidance-for-Children-Turning-Three-During-the-COVID-19-Health-Emergency.pdf>

Thank you for your continued efforts to support Connecticut's families with infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities.