

Understanding California Early Start (Part C): A Two-Part Series



Join CalECSE for a no-cost, virtual training series designed to build a shared understanding of California Early Start, the state's Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C early intervention system for children ages zero to three. This series will empower educators, child care providers, families, preschool administrators, and healthcare providers with information that supports effective navigation of the referral processes, service delivery, and transitions for infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities and their families.

Part 1: Referral, Eligibility, and Services This session provides an overview of California Early Start (IDEA, Part C) with a focus on referral pathways, eligibility criteria, and service delivery models. Participants will examine the differences and similarities between Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and Regional Centers in how children ages birth to three are referred, evaluated, determined eligible, and served under Part C.

Part 2: Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs), Natural Environments, and Transition to Part B This session explores California Early Start (IDEA, Part C) services provided in the natural environment, including an overview of IFSPs and how they compare to Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) under IDEA Part B. Participants will also learn about transition requirements and timelines as children move from Early Start to preschool special education services at age three.

Who Should Attend

- ✓ Early childhood special educators
- ✓ Health care providers
- ✓ Child-care and preschool providers
- ✓ Others supporting infants, toddlers, and their families
- ✓ Special Education Directors
- ✓ Parents and guardians of young children
- ✓ Program Specialists

What You'll Learn

- ✓ How California Early Start (IDEA, Part C) referrals, eligibility, and services operate, including key roles of Local Educational Agencies and Regional Centers
- ✓ The structure and purpose of IFSPs and how they differ from IEPs
- ✓ Requirements for providing services in natural environments and supporting smooth transitions from Early Start (Part C) to preschool special education (Part B)

Register Today

Date & Registration Information

Session 1: Referral, Eligibility, and Services

February 27, 2026, Noon to 1:15 p.m.

Click to register

Session 2: Individualized Family Service Plans, Natural Environments, and Transition to Part B

May 11, 2026, Noon to 1:15 p.m.

Click to register

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about how to join the meeting.

Closed captioning is available via Zoom. Post-training recordings will be available on our website approximately two weeks after the session.