



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
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April 2009

Dear Members of the Early Intervention Community:

This letter is to inform you that the ICC voted to accept the revised competency indicators for CEIS, and to inform you of the next steps in the CEIS review process. This review is a mandated component in our Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD). (See box below).

Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 2004 required that each state develop and implement a CSPD, or plan for personnel development. In Massachusetts, a certification process has been developed that assures all personnel working in EI achieve a set of core competencies. The MA CSPD states that the CEIS process will be reviewed and updated every three to five years. Reviews of CEIS have been conducted in the past, most recently concluding in 2003.

In February 2009, The EI community completed a yearlong process to review the CEIS competency indicators. Revised competency indicators include 53 newly worded competency indicators in 8 areas; previously, there had been 69 competency indicators in 9 areas.

The goal of the review process is to review and revise the CEIS process so that it continues to:

- Embody core values of MA Early Intervention;
- Provide an opportunity for applicants to demonstrate competency in all 53 revised competency indicators;
- Provide the applicants with an opportunity to highlight their work by means of an equitable submission and review process; and
- Provide documentation of the applicant's service coordination practice.

Interested members in the community are invited to participate as part of a working Stakeholder Group, which will review the CEIS portfolio process.

There will be other ways to participate in this process, such as reviewing and providing written response to draft language during a public commentary period.

The Department looks forward to statewide participation in this effort. DPH will seek a representative from each of the following Stakeholder Groups: ICC committees; institutions of higher education; MEIC; EI family members; EI service coordinators who have CEIS; and from the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC).

If you are interested in participating in the Stakeholder Group, please fill out the attached application and return by May 15, 2009, to:

Holly Newman
EI CSPD Coordinator
250 Washington Street, 5th floor
Boston, MA 02108
617-994-9815 (T), 617-624-5990 (F)
Holly.Newman@state.ma.us

Application materials for membership in the Stakeholder Group will also be available electronically at the EITC website www.eitrainingcenter.org, and at www.mass.gov/dph/earlyintervention.

Sincerely,

Ron Benham
Director, Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition

Enclosures:

Application form
Timeline

What is the CSPD?

The CSPD, or Comprehensive System of Personnel Development, is mandated by Part C of the IDEA. Each state is required to maintain a document outlining the state's plan for recruiting, preparing, qualifying, and retaining EI personnel.

In Massachusetts, the CSPD is reviewed and implemented by the Personnel Preparation Committee of the ICC. In combination with that committee's Strategic Plan, the CSPD provides the blueprint for professional development activities for EI staff in Massachusetts.