

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

OPERATIONAL STANDARDS

I. INTRODUCTION

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) is the designated lead agency for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004. Operational Standards are developed based on Part C of Public Law 108-446 34 CFR Part 303 Early Intervention Program for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities, and on Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 111G.

The Massachusetts Early Intervention system is comprised of community-based programs certified as Early Intervention providers by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Early Intervention in Massachusetts is a statewide, integrated, developmental service available to families of children between birth and three years of age. Children may be eligible for EI if they have developmental difficulties due to identified disabilities or delays, or if typical development is at risk due to certain birth or environmental circumstances

The Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) is developed in collaboration with families based on functional outcomes as determined by the family with respect to their concerns and priorities. Services and staff reflect the cultural, linguistic, and ethnic composition of the state and of families enrolled. Early Intervention services focus on the family unit, utilizing family resources and daily routines to enhance the child's growth and development. Early Intervention staff work in partnership with individuals present in the child's natural environment. Early Intervention staff support and encourage the family's use of and access to community-based resources that will continue to support and enhance the child's development.

These standards are developed to describe requirements of community Early Intervention programs and are used as criteria by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for ongoing monitoring, for contract performance review and for Early Intervention program certification. These standards, and all Massachusetts DPH-certified Early Intervention programs, incorporate into their practice the following core values:

1. RESPECT

Recognizing that each group of people has its own unique culture, and honoring the values and ways of each family's neighborhood, community, extended family, and individual unit.

2. INDIVIDUALIZATION

Tailoring supports and services with each family to its own unique needs and circumstances.

3. FAMILY-CENTEREDNESS

Basing decisions with each family on its own values, priorities, and routines.

4. COMMUNITY

Realizing that each family exists in the context of a greater community, and fostering those communities as resources for supports and services.

5. TEAM COLLABORATION

Working as equal partners with each family and with the people and service systems in a family's life.

6. LIFE-LONG LEARNING

Viewing early intervention supports and services as a first step on a journey for each child, family, and provider.