



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 21, 2017

TO: Special Education Directors, Early Childhood Administrators, *Early On*[®] Coordinators

FROM: *JC* Teri Chapman, Director, Office of Special Education
rdj Reneé DeMars-Johnson, Director, Office of Great Start/Early Childhood Development and Family Education

SUBJECT: Guidance on Eligibility for Michigan Mandatory Special Education, Birth to Three

In July 2015, the Michigan Department of Education, Offices of Early Childhood Development and Family Education and Special Education convened a stakeholder group to begin the work of creating guidance for the application of MARSE categories for infants and toddlers, birth to three. This project was the result of the State Office of the Auditor General Performance Audit for *Early On* and information gathered from joint office visits to ISD's on eligibility determination. During the 2015-16 program year, guidance was developed on use of the two most prevalent categories of eligibility for birth to three: Early Childhood Developmental Delay (ECDD) and Speech-Language Impairment (SLI). The process included broad and expert developer and review groups and final approval at the Department by the Offices of Great Start/Early Childhood Development and Family Education and Special Education.

As a result of this work, we are releasing the following documents as guidance:

1. Determination of Eligibility for MMSE for Infants and Toddlers, Birth to Age Three - Introduction
2. Determination of Eligibility for MMSE for Infants and Toddlers, Birth to Age Three - ECDD Guidance
3. Determination of Eligibility for MMSE for Infants and Toddlers, Birth to Age Three - SLI Guidance
4. Warning Signs for Communication Delays in the First Three Years of Life

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Thank you to those who were involved in the creation of these documents. Currently, new stakeholder groups are in the early stages of creating guidance for the next two categories: Other Health Impairment (OHI) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Please contact Vanessa Winborne in the Office of Great Start/Early Childhood Development and Family Education at winbornev@michigan.gov or Jessica Brady in the Office of Special Education at bradyj@michigan.gov with questions or comments.

Attachments