



September 11, 2013

Community Stakeholders,

As you know, the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) program is currently engaged in the rule-writing process to create Washington Administrative Code (WAC). This new chapter of WAC will govern the provision of IDEA Part C early intervention services for eligible infants and toddlers in Washington who have developmental delays or disabilities and their families. ESIT is following the rule-making process required for WAC development. This includes conducting public hearings and providing the opportunity for public comment.

ESIT is requesting your participation in the WAC development process. Please attend our upcoming meeting on **Wednesday, September 25 from 9:00-3:00 at Puget Sound Educational Service District (ESD) in Renton**. The address of the ESD and driving directions are attached. The purpose of this meeting is to engage in a discussion about the development of WAC for the provision of early intervention services. Participating in the meeting will be Ross Taylor and Sharon Walsh, consultants who are assisting ESIT staff in the development of the new WACs. During the meeting, ESIT will ask for input on:

- the structure, order and format of the draft WAC,
- development of a distribution and communication plan
- local training and technical assistance needs,
- challenges and opportunities of implementing the WAC

In accordance with 34 CFR 303.200 and 303.203, early intervention services are currently administered through state policies and procedures, approved by the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). These approved policies and procedures had the benefit of public input through the public comment period, which included public hearings that occurred on March 12 and 15, 2013. The policies and procedures are based on the revised Part C regulations (34 CFR Part 303), that went into effect October 28, 2011. The new WACs will be based on these existing ESIT policies and procedures.

The new WAC will identify requirements and responsibilities of all participating agencies consistent with federal and state requirements. The new WAC will also increase awareness and understanding of the required policies and procedures for community stakeholders and the general public.

The content and scope of the new WAC will be consistent with the existing policies and procedures approved by OSEP. ESIT's current policies and procedures are available on the DEL website at http://www.del.wa.gov/publications/esit/docs/ESIT_policies_procedures.pdf. The proposed draft WAC is attached, as a reference.

ESIT is planning to conduct an additional stakeholder workgroup meeting during the winter of 2013. The purpose of the meeting will be to provide a final review of the draft WAC and receive recommendations regarding any additional Part C requirements that are not explicitly stated in the draft WAC. This step will ensure that all requirements related to statewide implementation are included in the state law.

The final step in the rule-writing process will be the public comment period, which includes convening public hearings to provide the community with an opportunity to comment on the proposed WAC, prior to adoption. ESIT will schedule the public comment period and public hearings during the spring of 2014. A webinar format will be used to facilitate broad statewide participation in the public hearings. In addition, written comments may be submitted to the Department of Early Learning (DEL) during the public comment period. Additional information on the rule-writing process is available on the DEL website at <http://www.del.wa.gov/laws/development/>.

Please reply to Linda Jennings at Linda.jennings@del.wa.gov by September 20 to reserve your seat for this meeting. Participation is limited to 65 people, due to room capacity. Please print, review (and bring to the meeting) the attached draft WAC in preparation for the meeting.

Attached: DRAFT Washington Administrative Code
Directions to Puget Sound ESD