

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

Policy No.: I.C.4.PO.002

Subject: Early Connections Program

Section: Services and Supports: Children Services

Issue Date: March 31, 2005

Effective Date: March 31, 2005

Revised: September 13, 2010

Approved: /s/ Peter H. O'Meara/KdP

A. Policy Statement

The Department of Developmental Services shall operate a school district to provide educational services to eligible children under the age of three. The school district shall be known as the Unified School District #3, Early Connections Program.

1. The commissioner shall appoint a superintendent to operate the school district.
2. The superintendent shall make rules for the administration of the school district in accordance with regulations established by the State Board of Education.
3. The program shall be a comprehensive provider of services under the Birth to Three statewide system of early intervention services pursuant to Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
4. The Early Connections program shall develop any program-specific procedures to add to the Birth to Three procedures manual that guides the operation of the program. All program sites shall receive a copy of the manual. Revised and new procedures shall be sent to the program annually.
5. The Early Connections program shall be monitored for compliance with the written procedures and the provision of quality services delivered to children and families under the Birth to Three System's Accountability and Monitoring Process.

B. Applicability

This policy shall apply to children from birth to 36 months of age who are not eligible for special education and related services pursuant to sections 10-76a to 10-76h, inclusive, of the Connecticut General Statutes and who need early intervention services. The children must be experiencing a significant developmental delay as measured by standardized diagnostic instruments and procedures, including informed clinical opinion in one or more of the following areas: cognitive development, physical development, including vision or hearing, communication development, social or emotional development or adaptive skills, or diagnosed as having a physical or mental condition that has a high probability of resulting in developmental delay and who are enrolled in the Unified School District #3 Early Connections Program.

C. Definitions

None

D. References

Federal Law and Regulation

Part C of IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)

34 CFR 303 (Sections 303.1 to 303.204, inclusive)

Connecticut General Statutes

Sections 17a-239 to 17a-244, inclusive
Sections 17a-248 to 17a-248g, inclusive

Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies

Sections 17a-244-1 to 17a-244-8, inclusive
Sections 17a-248-1 to 17a-248-14, inclusive

Early Connections Procedures Manual

E. Attachments

None