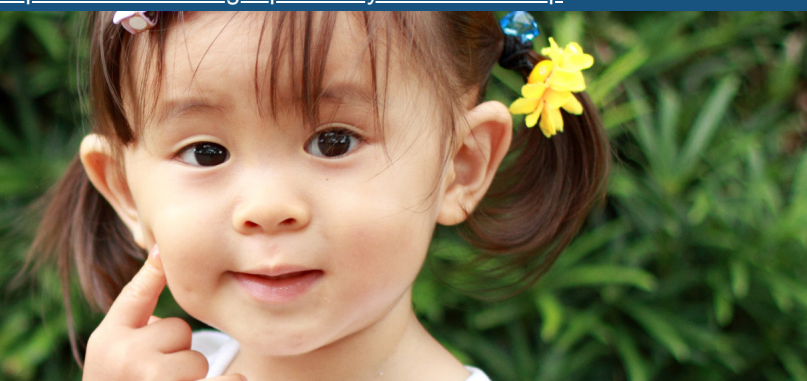


State and Jurisdictional Eligibility Definitions

for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities under IDEA Part C



Overview

This infographic summarizes national variations in eligibility policies for infants and toddlers from birth to age 3 enrolling in early intervention programs under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Staff from the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA) and the Center for IDEA Early Childhood Data Systems (DaSy) reviewed online documentation of eligibility policies for states, territories, and the Department of Defense, collectively referred to as “states”, that receive Part C funding.

Eligibility for IDEA Part C Services

Each state's definition of an infant or toddler with a disability ([34 CFR §303.21](#)) must include an infant or toddler with:

- A developmental delay.
- A diagnosed physical or mental condition with a high probability of resulting in developmental delay.

States receiving Part C funds are required to develop a rigorous definition of developmental delay, which specifies the level of delay in functioning that constitutes a developmental delay ([34 CFR §303.111](#)).

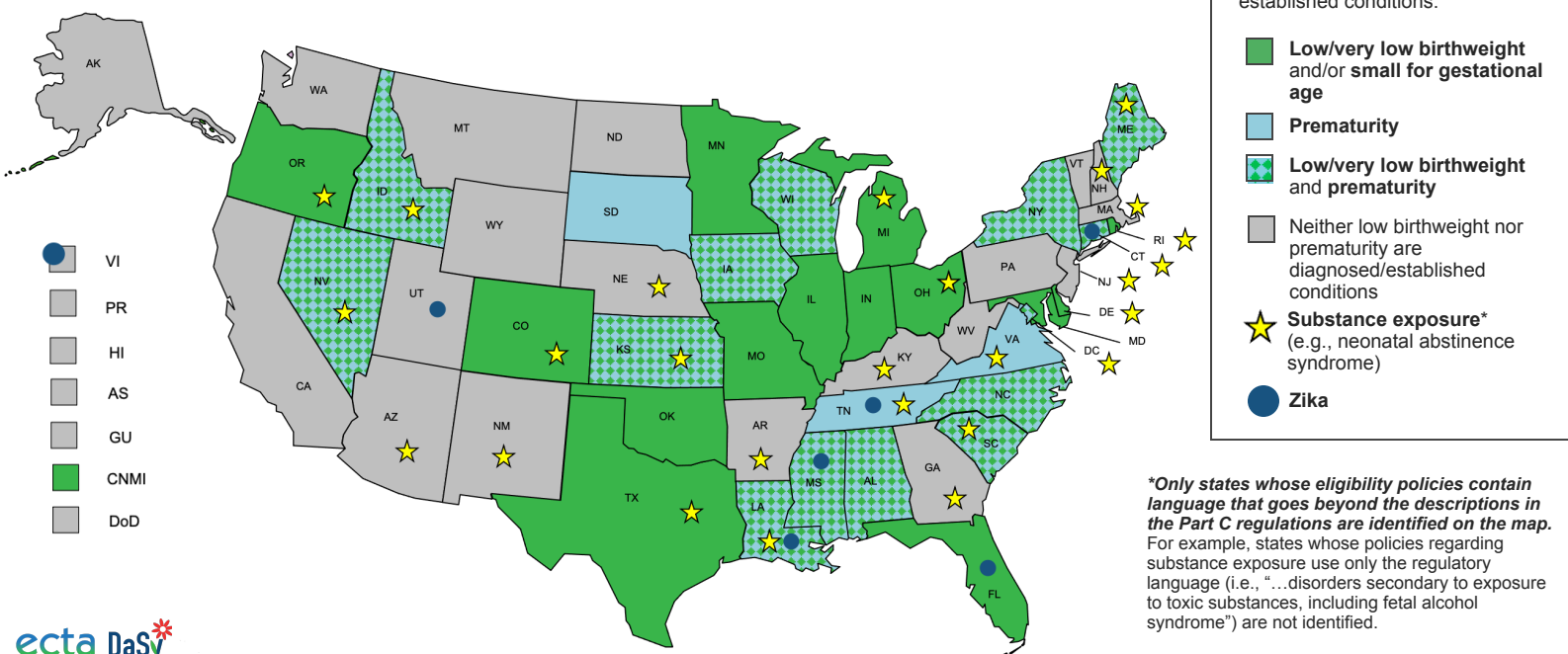
A state may choose to serve infants and toddlers at risk. “At risk” means children under three years old who would be at risk of experiencing a substantial developmental delay if early intervention services were not provided. Eight states currently serve infants and toddlers at risk.

Visit the [ECTA website](#) to access the complete database of Part C eligibility policies, which includes:

- 1 Developmental delay eligibility criteria
- 2 Criteria for states that serve infants and toddlers at risk
- 3 Links to state Part C eligibility policies and other policies (if available)
- 4 Eligibility information on selected categories of diagnosed conditions

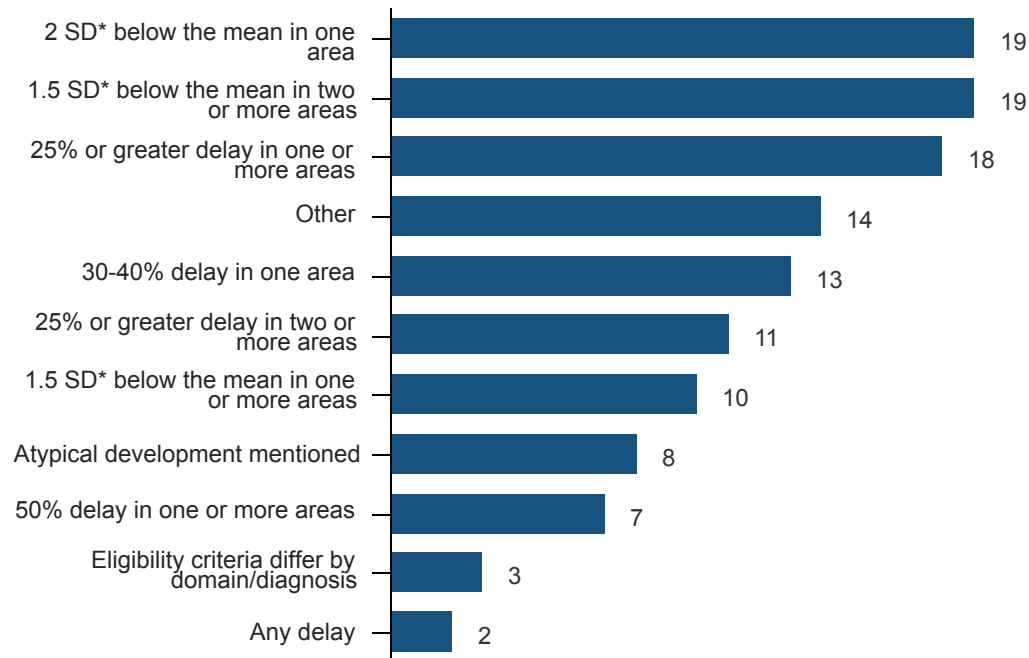
Selected Diagnosed/Established Conditions

This map highlights states whose eligibility policies include selected diagnosed or established conditions, although specific definitions and criteria vary by state.*



Frequency of Developmental Delay Definitions

The figure below demonstrates the variation in state Part C definitions of developmental delay. Because most states include more than one definition in their policies, the number of states using these definitions is greater than the total number of states that receive Part C funding.



* SD = standard deviation



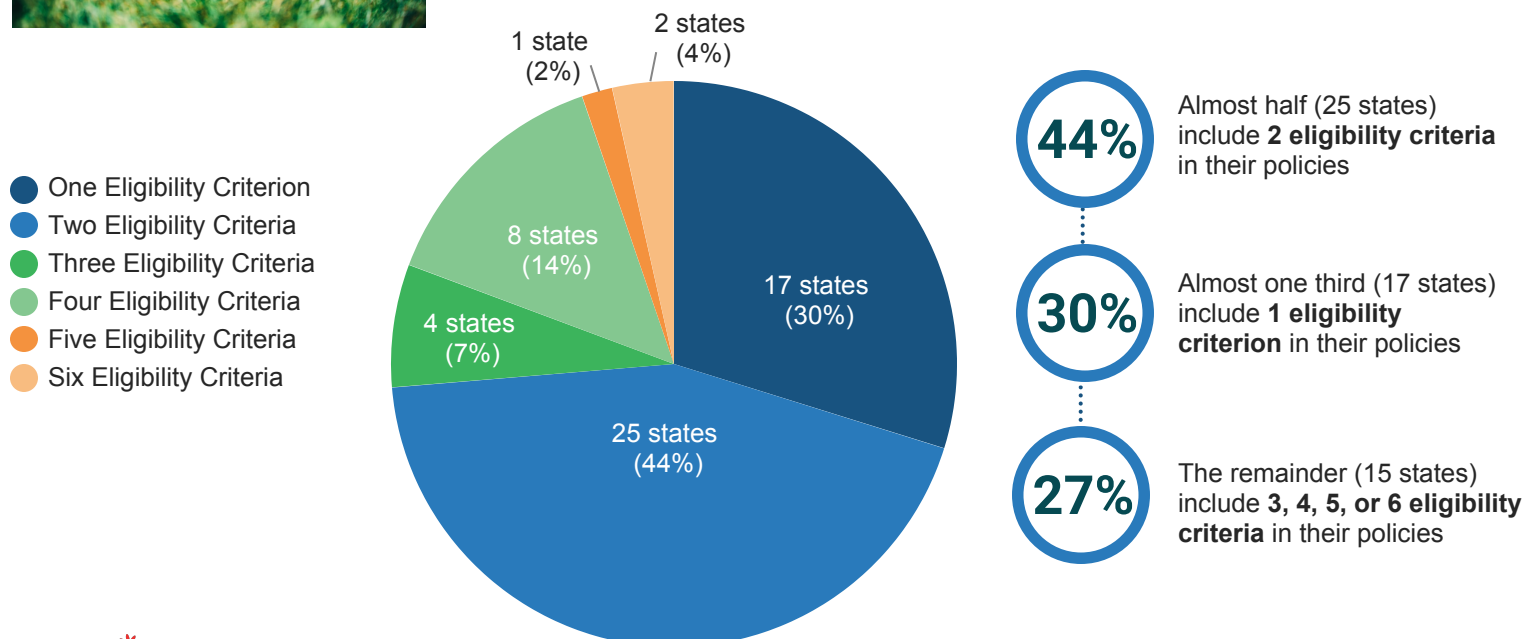
Examples of developmental delay definitions included in the "Other" category of bar chart:

- ➔ 1.3 SD below the mean
- ➔ Below the 7th percentile
- ➔ 12-month delay



Developmental Delay Eligibility Criteria

The number of developmental delay eligibility criteria that states include in their Part C policies varies. A common practice is to include different levels of delay based on the number of developmental areas affected, for example 2 SD below the mean in one developmental area or at least 1.5 SD below the mean in two developmental areas.



44% Almost half (25 states) include **2 eligibility criteria** in their policies

30% Almost one third (17 states) include **1 eligibility criterion** in their policies

27% The remainder (15 states) include **3, 4, 5, or 6 eligibility criteria** in their policies