



ISSUES AND QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER FOR STATES EXPLORING THE PART C OPTION**

I. Finance Issues

- How would the option be financed? What might be the effect(s) of considering family cost participation? Can Medicaid be accessed? The financial piece will be a very important consideration.
- Presumably, there will be increased costs for Part C to serve children for another two years. As school systems have to continue to provide preschool services for children under Part B (619), would there be any savings incurred?
- Would the State want to wait until the incentive grant formula kicks in or proceed with the Part C option now? (Timing Issue)
- How will this interact with other initiatives in the State – for example Finance Committee, Service Delivery Committee, Child Find Committee, programs being considered for 4-year-olds, and others?
- How many children does the State anticipate might participate in this option and what would be the cost per child? Would the cost of serving 3-5 year olds be more or less than serving birth to 3 year olds? Could compare service utilization data for initial estimates.

II. Service Provision Issues and Personnel Development

- Does the State have the capacity to serve additional children? If not, should the State wait until it has the capacity to serve more children?
- Who will provide services? What are the implications for the service delivery model?
- Should the State wait for further guidance from the federal regulations before deciding on this option?
- Capacity issues: There may be a need for further collaboration with the school system because resources and numbers of providers in Part C may not be adequate to serve all of the additional children.
- Implications for personnel development: Are there differences in qualification requirements between C and B?
- How will the required educational component that promotes school readiness and incorporates preliteracy, language and numeracy skills be addressed for children who continue in Part C?

**Discussion tool developed by NECTAC for a state technical assistance meeting, May 2005. The list of issues is not intended to be exhaustive, additions or suggestions are welcome.

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III. Family Impact Issues

- What about children who are not eligible for Part B? These children are not eligible for the Part C option. What are their options?
- What will be parents' perceptions if their children can't continue in Part C but other children can?
- How will families be fully informed of their choices? What are the procedural safeguards that must be assured?
- Parents who choose this option can continue to receive IFSP services until their child reaches kindergarten, but they might have to pay for some of those services if the State elects to institute family cost participation.
- What are issues related to the transition out of Part C services, i.e. can parents elect to leave Part C at any time and elect to enter preschool or is the only option to enter kindergarten?

IV. Data System/Monitoring Implications

- What adjustments to the data system would be needed to report the number of children with disabilities who are eligible for services under Section 619 but whose parents choose for them to continue to receive early intervention services?
- Should the State wait until it has the new data system before proceeding with this option?

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