Determining a Child’s Eligibility for Early Intervention Services Remotely

This infographic summarizes guidance and considerations to support state staff and local practitioners in determining a child’s eligibility for early intervention services remotely, which requires effective state policies, procedures, and practices. See the full guidance at:

https://ectacenter.org/topics/earlyid/remote-eligibility-partc.asp

1. Consider System and State Policies
   - **SYSTEM CONSIDERATIONS**
     - Determine changes that need to be implemented statewide and those that require flexibility
     - Align policy decisions with program vision and communicate them to all stakeholders
   - **STATE POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**
     - Use developmental screenings to reduce the need for remote evaluations
     - Use interim IFSPs to expedite early intervention services when there are uncertainties about eligibility
     - Clarify regulatory requirements and technology practices
     - Determine data collection and documentation needs
     - Address practitioner workload and teaming

2. Plan for Remote Eligibility Determination
   - Gather necessary information from family and other sources
   - Determine who should be involved and if an interpreter will be needed
   - Select the right assessment tools to use remotely and determine whether they will provide valid results
   - Help the team and family prepare for the use of technology

3. Collect Data Remotely
   - Honor parent rights and participation
   - Maintain confidentiality and follow policies around obtaining consent
   - Collect information in a way that values and engages the family
   - Observe and discuss the child’s natural actions and interactions
   - Remember that parents are not surrogate test administrators

4. Analyze and Take Action
   - **PRACTITIONER DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**
     - Identify how to share documents and scoring materials remotely for all practitioners to review
     - Determine sufficiency and completeness of information collected remotely
     - Review options, such as interim IFSPs, when information collected is inconclusive
   - **TEAM ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION**
     - Invite and honor everyone’s participation on the team for remote eligibility determination decisions
     - Ensure all follow up actions are fully discussed and planned for collaboratively

5. Resources
   - Guidance and Considerations
   - Best Practices
   - Related IDEA Regulations
   - Looks Like and Doesn’t Look Like Examples
   - Resources and Links to Online Materials

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