

Draft- Public Participation Policy

February 2015

The following Draft Public Participation Policy is a required policy by the Office of Special Education Programs to ensure that States circulate the Grant application and supporting documents throughout the State and allow the general public adequate time to make public comment. This proposed policy is consistent with Part C regulation and serves to provide guidance related to public comment.

§303.208(a)(b) Guiding Federal Policy

- (a)** At least 60 days prior to being submitted to the Department, each application for funds under this part (including any policies, procedures, descriptions, methods, certifications, assurances and other information required in the application) must be published in a manner that will ensure circulation throughout the State for at least a 60-day period,, with an opportunity for public comment on the application for at least 30 days during that period.
- (b)** Each application must include a description of the policies and procedures used by the State to ensure that, before adopting any ne policy or procedure (including any revision to an existing policy or procedure) needed to comply with Part C of the Act and these regulations, the lead agency –
 - (1) Holds public hearings on the new policy or procedure (including any revision to an existing policy or procedure);
 - (2) Provides notice of the hearings held in accordance with paragraph (b)(1) of this section at least 30 days before the hearings are conducted to enable public participation; and,
 - (3) Provides an opportunity for the general public, including individuals with disabilities, parents of infants and toddlers with disabilities, Early Intervention Service providers, and the members of the Council, to comment for at least 30 days on the new policy or procedure (including any revisions to an existing policy or procedure) needed to comply with Part C of the Act and these regulations.

(Approved by Office of Management and Budget under control number 1820 – 0550)

(Authority: 20 (U.S.C 123,1d 1221e – 3, 1437(a)(8))

BABIES CAN'T WAIT PROGRAM STANDARD

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Georgia's Babies Can't Wait Program must place the Part C grant application on the Georgia Department of Public Health/ Babies Can't Wait website for at least 60 days with an opportunity for public comment on the application for at least 30 days during the period before the application is submitted to the Office of Special Education Programs. Section 303.208(a) requires that the State's IDEA Part C grant application be published in a manner that will ensure circulation throughout the State for at least a 60-day period, with an opportunity for public comment on the application for at least 30 days during that period before the application is submitted to the Department. The notification of the Part C grant and request for comments will be placed on the Babies Can't Wait website and in each of the 18 district's health departments throughout the state. Section 303.208(b) clarifies that the State must include in the State application a description of the policies and procedures used by the State to ensure that, before adopting any new policy or procedure (including any revision to an existing policy or procedure) needed to comply with Part C of the IDEA and the regulations, the lead agency.

IMPLEMENTATION

Where feasible and appropriate, local health districts (upon request from the State BCW office) should provide assistance and support in facilitating public notification and participation in their communities as described below:

- At minimum, place notification of the Part C grant and request for comments on Health District's and/or Babies Can't Wait website where they exists (and other appropriate media source) in each of the 18 district's health throughout the state;
- Hold public hearings on any new State policy or procedure need to comply with Part C (including any revision to an existing policy or procedure), after providing notice for the public hearing at least 30 days before the hearing is held to enable public participation;
- Provides an opportunity for the general public including individuals with disabilities, parents of infants and toddlers with disabilities, early intervention service providers, and the members of the Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC), to comment for at least 30 days on the new policy or procedure.