

DELAWARE PART C PUBLIC PARTICIPATION POLICIES

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

3.1. Before submitting the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services' (DHSS) application for funds under Part C of IDEA, including any policies, descriptions, methods, certifications, assurances and other information required in the application, it will be published in a manner that ensures 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.

3.2. These are the policies and procedures used by Delaware DHSS to ensure that, before adopting any new policy, including any revision to an existing policy, needed to comply with Part C of IDEA and these regulations, the Delaware DHSS Birth to Three Early Intervention Program:

- (a) Holds public hearings on the new policy, including any revision to an existing policy;
- (b) Provides notice of the hearings held in accordance with (a) above at least 30 days before the hearings are conducted to enable public participation; and
- (c) Provides an opportunity for the general public, including individuals with disabilities, parents of infants and toddlers with disabilities, EIS providers, and the members of the Interagency Coordinating Council, to comment for at least 30 days on the new policy, including any revision to an existing policy needed to comply with Part C of IDEA and these regulations.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. The Application and any referenced policies shall be made available at:
 - Birth to Three Office, 1901 N. DuPont Highway, Main Administration Building, New Castle, DE 19720
 - Child Development Watch regional early intervention programs
 - Delaware News Journal and Delaware State News
 - Delaware DHSS Register of Regulations
2. Within the sixty (60) days, the general public shall have the opportunity to provide written or oral comments on the application materials for a period not less than thirty (30) days. The general public shall include, but is not limited to:
 - Individuals with disabilities
 - Parents of infants and toddlers with disabilities
 - Early Intervention Providers
 - Members of the ICC

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3. Delaware Birth to Three shall ensure that before adopting any new policy, including any revision to an existing policy needed to comply with Part C of IDEA. Delaware Birth to Three shall:
 - Hold public hearings on the new policy or procedure at the Birth to Three Office , 1901 N. DuPont Highway, Main Administration Building, New Castle, DE 19720, and at one site in Kent and Sussex counties
 - Provide notice of the hearings at least thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled hearings to enable public participation. Notices are published in the Delaware News Journal and Delaware State News and Delaware DHSS Register of Regulations
 - Provide an opportunity for the general public to comment for at least thirty (30) days on the new policy needed to comply with Part C of IDEA. Comments may also be emailed to: inita.joyner@state.de.us
 - Comments from the public will be considered by the Delaware – Birth to Three office and may result in modifications to the final application

AUTHORITY:

34 CFR§ 303.208 - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES