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Mark D. Birdwhistell  
Secretary

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** First Steps Providers and Stakeholders  
**FROM:** Kirsten Hammock, Part C Coordinator  
**DATE:** June 15, 2007  
**RE:** First Steps Update

Despite my sincere hope to have some decisions made by today regarding Evaluation and Assessment in First Steps, we have been unable to do so. In reviewing the questions and comments from Monday's Biannual Primary Level Evaluator (PLE) Meeting, I was particularly troubled by one note. It read, "There is a perception in the field that Central Office has a hidden agenda for redesigning the FS system. While stakeholder input has been offered, it appears to be ignored. Could Central Office be more open and straight forward about planned changes?"

In an attempt to expand the lines of communication between Central Office and First Steps providers and stakeholders, I am going to begin providing weekly updates on Central Office activities. I will do this in the form of Memorandums distributed by e-mail and posted to the First Steps website. Until I can come up with a catchier byline, they'll be titled "First Steps Updates".

With this being the first update, I'm going to select a couple of topics that I think may be of interest. If there are other things you would like information about in future updates, please drop me an e-mail and let me know. You can reach me at [Kirsten.hammock@ky.gov](mailto:Kirsten.hammock@ky.gov).

### Screening, Evaluation and Assessment

- At this time Central Office is leaning toward maintaining the current eligibility criteria rather than moving to an age equivalent or percent delay.
- In order to meet OSEP's mandate to measure child progress, Central Office is planning to capture data regarding child progress at entry and at least annually thereafter. In addition, there may be a requirement to capture "exit" data at a time closer to the child's third birthday. A determination as to who will conduct the assessment to capture progress data and the mechanism for transmitting that data to the statewide data system (KEDS) has not been made.
- There are no plans to eliminate Primary Level Evaluators from the First Steps System.
- Questions from Monday's Biannual PLE Meeting have been collected and reviewed and responses should be available in time for next week's update.

### Part C Regulations

The Secretary of Education has proposed changes to the regulations for the Early Intervention Program for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities (Part C). The proposed regulations will implement changes made to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA).

The official proposed regulations for IDEA Part C were published in the Federal Register on Wednesday May 9, 2007 and can be viewed at the following link:

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/07-2140.pdf>

Once proposed regulations are published in the Federal Register, there is a **75-day public comment period**, which will **close on July 23, 2007**. If you would like to make written comment to, you are encouraged to use the Federal eRulemaking Portal at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

I realize this is short, but hope you find it helpful. Again, if you have suggestions for future updates, please let me know at [Kirsten.hammock@ky.gov](mailto:Kirsten.hammock@ky.gov).