

B. LEAD AGENCY (34 CFR 303.142, 303.143 and 303.500)

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is the lead agency responsible for ensuring the provision of early intervention services to eligible infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families consistent with 20U.S.C. 1471 et seq., and 34 CFR Part 303. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, as the lead agency, is the entity responsible for assigning financial responsibility among appropriate agencies.

The Department is responsible for ensuring that the minimum components of a statewide system of early intervention services for eligible infants and toddlers and their families, as required by the United States Department of Education is established and maintained in the state. The minimum components, identified in 20 U.S.C. 1476 and 34 CFR 303, include the following:

- a) A state definition of developmentally delayed
- b) A central directory of information relating to early intervention services, resources, experts, and research and demonstration projects available in the state
- c) A public awareness program
- d) A comprehensive child find system
- e) Evaluation and assessment procedures
- f) Development, review and evaluation of IFSPs and service coordination
- g) A comprehensive system of personnel development
- h) Development and implementation of personnel standards
- i) Development and implementation of procedural safeguards
- j) General administration, supervision, and monitoring of the early intervention system
- k) Procedures for resolving complaints
- l) Policies and procedures related to financial matters, including the following:
 - a. the identification and coordination of all resources in the state available for early intervention services
 - b. the timely reimbursement of funds provided by the United States Department of Education for early intervention services
 - c. the assignment of financial responsibility among the participating agencies
- m) Interagency agreements for resolution of disputes
- n) Policies for contracting or otherwise arranging for services
- o) Data collection on the numbers of infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families in the state
- p) Policies and procedures that ensure that to the maximum extent appropriate, early intervention services are provided in natural environments; and the provision of early intervention services for any infant or toddler occurs in a setting other than a natural environment only when early intervention cannot be achieved satisfactorily for the infant or toddler in a natural environment.

The State of Missouri assures that a current IFSP is in effect and implemented for each eligible child and the child's family (34 CFR 303.167).