

Georgia Departments of Education and Community Health, Division of Public Health, Babies Can't Wait (BCW) Program: Partnering for Success



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH
Division of Public Health



GEORGIA⁺
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)



- Part C of the Act addresses early intervention services to infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities and their families.
- IDEA requires that Part C (Babies Can't Wait) and Part B (K-12 Education Agency) collaborate to ensure that students with disabilities of all ages, birth through 21, receive the services to which they are entitled.
- Collaboration is especially important as the young children prepare to move from one agency to another, from Part C to Part B.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

- Both agencies have indicators in their State Performance Plans (SPP) and Annual Performance Reports (APR) to account for a smooth transition between programs for appropriate students.
- Systems and local programs must work together to successfully transition children from one to the other and meet the third birthday timeline.



Developing a partnership...

- Collaboration
 - Teamwork
 - Partnership
 - Group effort
 - Association
 - Alliance
 - Relationship
 - Cooperation
 - Joint effort



Making transition more effective...

- At the state level, the two agencies have been meeting and will continue to meet to improve the process and keep it moving smoothly.
 - BCW is revising some policies to align with IDEA 2004 and new requirements
 - Common definitions for terms will be developed.
 - Transition manual will be revised.





BCW Transition Planning

- At least 6 months prior to the child's 3rd birthday – can be started as early as 9 months before the 3rd birthday
- Assist families in identifying options
- With parental consent, share information about child with appropriate agency

Notification

- Monthly notification from BCW to local district
 - At this time, notification includes minimal information about children turning 3, and does not include contact information or any other personally identifiable information
 - BCW is waiting for approval of the “Opt out policy” from the US DOE in order to implement notification with more information unless the parents specifically state they do not want information shared.

Transition Conference

- Transition meetings/conferences should occur no less than 90 days prior to the third birthday and, hopefully, occur with more time than 90 days.
- Local districts, based on the notification that there are students turning 3, should expect to be invited to conferences.
 - If you do not hear from BCW about a transition conference you were expecting, contact them and ask about it.

- As long as the child was referred to BCW 90 days prior to his or her third birthday, the district is responsible for determining eligibility and developing and implementing the IEP, as appropriate by the third birthday.
- The district and the local BCW program must work together.



- At the transition conference, the local district should provide the family with information about the process for determining eligibility.
 - Local districts should make every effort to attend.
 - If you cannot attend, BCW should provide this information to the family.
- You must provide a copy of the parents rights at the transition meeting.



Accountability

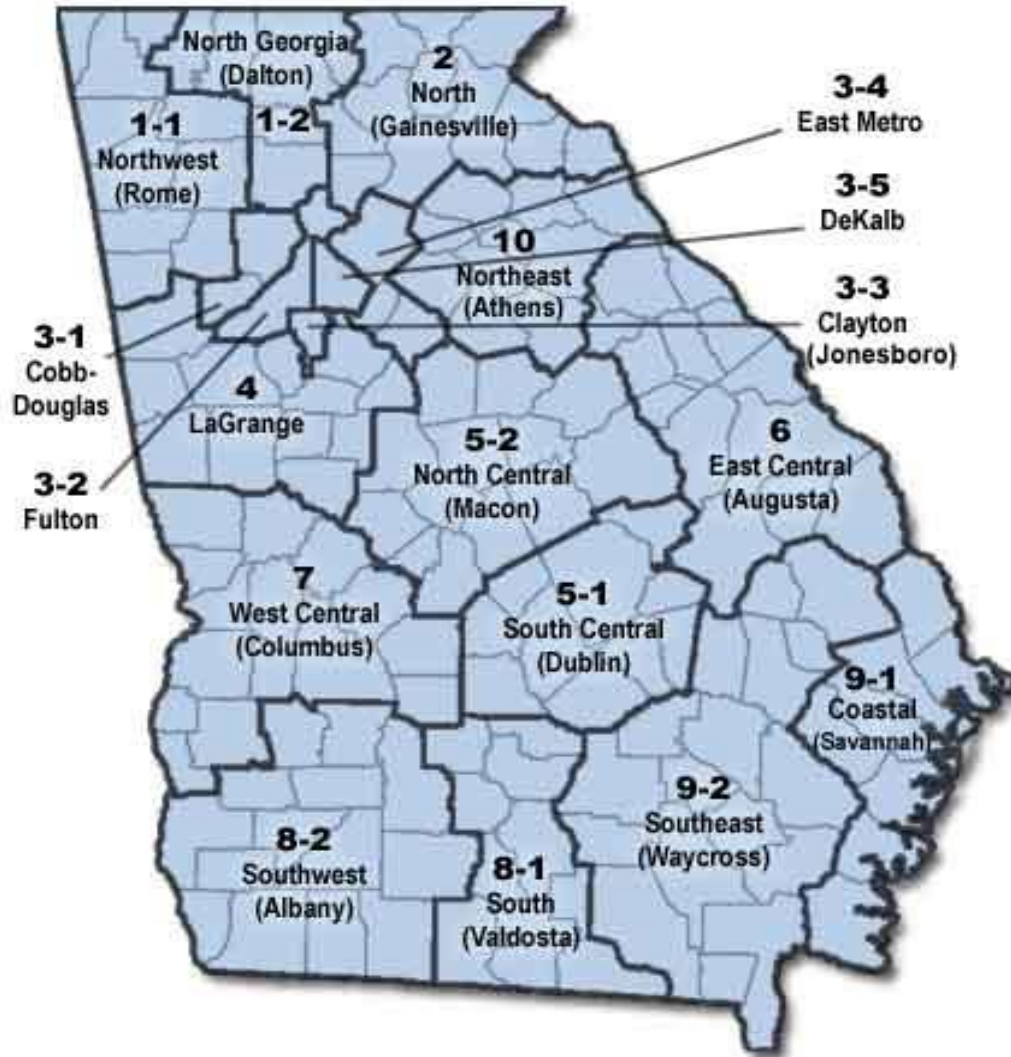
- Children referred from BCW count in both Indicator 11 (initial evaluation timeline) and Indicator 12 (BCW timeline).
- Districts should report children referred from BCW in Indicator 12, even when the referral to you was LATE, less than 90 days.
 - The only exception is if the child was referred to BCW less than 90 days before his/her third birthday.

When the LEA receives a referral from BCW less than 90 days **due to** late transition.

- District still must be evaluate, determine eligibility, develop the IEP, and implement the IEP **on or before** the child's 3rd birthday.
- If accomplished **after** the 3rd birthday, it counts against the district.
- Districts should keep track of these and report to GaDOE. GaDOE will share information with BCW.
 - OSEP says this is the only way to get the two agencies to work together.



Public Health Districts



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