

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

1600 NINTH STREET, Room 240, MS 2-13  
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TTY (916) 654-2054 (For the Hearing Impaired)  
(916) 654-1897



June 15, 2020

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVE 01-061520: EXTENSION OF EARLY START SERVICES

Pursuant to Governor Gavin Newsom's Proclamation of a State of Emergency dated March 4, 2020, and Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-25-20 issued on March 12, 2020, the Director of the Department of Developmental Services (Department) issues this Directive to regional centers waiving certain requirements of the California Early Intervention Services Act (CEISA). The Department recognizes the transition to special education services for children at age three may be delayed as local schools face challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Any requirements of the CEISA, including Government Code section 95014(a), mandating early intervention services end at age three are hereby waived. This waiver only applies for children who have received Early Start services through regional centers and reached their third birthday during the COVID-19 State of Emergency. Regional centers must continue to work with local schools to transition children to educational services pursuant to existing regulations.

This waiver is necessary to ensure continuity in the delivery of services for children during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This Directive remains in effect for 30 days, unless extended by the Director of the Department. Parents, guardians, and authorized legal representatives should contact their local regional center with any questions regarding this Directive. Questions from regional centers should be directed to Reyna Ambriz at (916) 651-0364 or [reyna.ambriz@dds.ca.gov](mailto:reyna.ambriz@dds.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

*Original Signed by:*

NANCY BARGMANN  
Director

cc: Regional Center Board Presidents  
Regional Center Administrators  
Regional Center Directors of Consumer Services  
Regional Center Community Services Directors  
Association of Regional Center Agencies

**“Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices”**