

Massachusetts EI System – Common Definitions

Massachusetts Early Intervention System	The Massachusetts EI system is a statewide integrated system of developmental services and supports available to eligible children ages birth to three and their families.
Eligibility Evaluation	An eligibility evaluation is the process of determining a child’s initial and ongoing eligibility for EI services through a review of information related to eligibility criteria and the administration of a DPH approved tool.
Assessment	Assessment encompasses the ongoing activities utilized by EI Specialists to identify a child and family’s unique strengths and needs.
Functional Assessment	Functional assessment is the gathering of information about a child’s skills in the <u>real life contexts</u> of family, culture and community.
Informed Clinical Opinion	Informed clinical opinion is decision making that utilizes the individual and collective knowledge of EI Specialists through information gathering.
IFSP	The Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) is a working document that outlines the early intervention outcomes and services to be provided with the child and family.
IFSP Team	The IFSP Team includes parents, the service coordinator, EI Specialists, other service providers and anybody else invited by the family.
IFSP Process	The IFSP process is the ongoing development, implementation, assessment and review to determine the effectiveness of the IFSP in addressing child and family outcomes.
Functional Outcomes	Functional outcomes are observable behaviors that reflect a child’s participation in meaningful everyday activities.
Procedural Safeguards and Family Rights	Procedural safeguards and family rights are the policies and procedures established to protect the interests of a child and his/her family who may be, or are eligible for EI.
Family Engagement	Family engagement supports families to participate as active members of their child’s IFSP services and encourages families to become involved in a variety of activities at the program, state and/or national level.
Family-Centered Service	Family-centered service is a system philosophy which bases decisions with each family on the unique culture, values, priorities, and routines of that family.
MA EI Service Delivery Model	The MA EI service delivery model focuses on supporting child and family outcomes within daily routines at home or community-based settings.
Routines-Based Intervention	Routines-Based intervention includes strategies that support activities which occur within the course of a child’s and family’s everyday life experiences.
Transition	Transition is the process by which a child and family are assisted in preparing for discharge from an Early Intervention program.
Culture	Culture is all the unique features of a family’s structure and includes routines, activities, beliefs, race, ethnicity and community.