ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

IDEA Part C

FFY 2007 (2007–2008)

Submitted February 1, 2009 and Revised 4-7-09

State of Iowa
Iowa Department of Education
Bureau of Early Childhood Services
Grimes State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0146

State Board of Education

State of Iowa
Department of Education
Grimes State Office Building
400 E 14th St
Des Moines IA 50319-0146

State Board of Education

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ANNUAL REPORT CERTIFICATION OF THE INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL UNDER PART C OF THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA)

Under IDEA Section 641(e)(1)(D) and 34 CFR §303 654, the Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) of each jurisdiction that receives funds under Part C of the IDEA must prepare and submit to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education (Department) and to the Governor of its jurisdiction an annual report on the status of the early intervention programs for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families operated within the State. The ICC may either: (1) prepare and submit its own annual report to the Department and the Governor, or (2) provide this certification with the State lead agency's Annual Performance Report (APR)[1] under Part C of the IDEA. This certification (including the annual report or APR) is due no later than February 2, 2009.

On behalf of the ICC of the State/jurisdiction of **IOWA**, I hereby certify that the ICC is: [please check one]

1. [ ] Submitting its own annual report (which is attached); or

2. [X] Using the State's Part C APR for FFY 2007 in lieu of submitting the ICC's own annual report. By completing this certification, the ICC confirms that it has reviewed the State's Part C APR for accuracy and completeness.[2]

I hereby further confirm that a copy of this Annual Report Certification and the annual report or APR has been provided to our Governor.

Kelly Hancock
Signature of ICC Chairperson

1-23-09
Date

Kelly Hancock

3925 Pierce Street

Sioux City, IA 51104

Snoop113cav@cableone.net

(712) 255-2355

1 Under IDEA Sections 616(b)(2)(C)(ii)(II) and 642 and under 34 CFR §80 40, the lead agency's APR must report on the State's performance under its State performance plan and contain information about the activities and accomplishments of the grant period for a particular Federal fiscal year (FFY)

2 If the ICC is using the State's Part C APR and it disagrees with data or other information presented in the State's Part C APR, the ICC must attach to this certification an explanation of the ICC's disagreement and submit the certification and explanation no later than February 2, 2009.

Part C Annual Performance Report (APR) for FFY 2007 (2007-2008)

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Part C Annual Performance Report (APR) Comprehensive Chart
OSEP Response Letter Requirements for FFY 2007 (2007-2008)

Indicator	OSEP Response Letter Comments Received for APR (2-1-08)	APR OSEP Indicator Requirement	State Update Page Number FFY 2007
C1: Timely Services	The State provided data and met target of 100%.		APR (pp. 3)
C2: Natural Environment	The State's actual target data are at or greater than 95%. OSEP has no expectation that an increase in this percentage is necessary. It is important that the State continue to monitor to ensure individualized decisions.		APR (pp. 9)
C3: ECO A. Social-emotional B. Knowledge and skill C. Appropriate behavior	The State reported the required progress data and improvement activities.		APR (pp. 15) ***Note.*** Indicator is written in SPP template.
C4: Family Centered Services Survey	The State provided data and met each of three targets.		APR (pp. 29)
C5: Child Find Birth -1	The State provided data and met its target.		APR (pp. 43)
C6: Child Find Birth -3	The State provided data and met its target.		APR (pp. 58)
C7: Timely Evaluation and Assessment	The State did not meet its FFY 2006 target of 100%; the State reported that all prior findings of noncompliance were corrected in a timely manner.	As required by OSEP; The State must review its improvement activities and revise them, if appropriate, to ensure demonstration of compliance with the 45-day timeline, including correction of any noncompliance identified in FFY 2006.	APR (pp. 77, 80)

Indicator	OSEP Response Letter Comments Received for APR (2-1-08)	APR OSEP Indicator Requirement	State Update Page Number FFY 2007
C8: Transition C to B	The State did not meet its FFY 2006 target of 100% for C8(A) and C8(C). C8(B) did meet 100% target. The State's FFY 2006 data represent progress. State reported that all findings of noncompliance identified in FFY 2006 were corrected in timely manner.	C8(A) and C8(C) as required by OSEP; the State must correct any noncompliance identified in FFY 2005.	APR (pp. 89-91)
C9: General Supervision (monitoring, complaints, hearings, etc.)	The State met its FFY 2006 target of 100%.	As required by OSEP; The State must specifically identify and address the noncompliance identified in Indicators 7, 8A, and 8C.	APR (pp. 103-104)
C10: Complaints resolved within 60 day timeline	No written complaints were filed during FFY 2006.		APR (pp. 105)
C11: Due process hearings	No due process hearing requests were filed during FFY 2007.		APR (pp. 108)
C12: Hearing requests to resolution sessions resolved	Not applicable, per OSEP instructions.		APR (pp. 111)
C13: Mediations that resulted in agreements	No mediations were requested or held during FFY 2007.	The State is not required to provide or meet its targets or provide improvement activities until any FFY in which 10 or more mediations are conducted.	APR (pp. 112)
C14: Timely- and Accurate Data	The State met its FFY 2006 target of 100%.		APR (pp. 113)

Part C Annual Performance Report (APR) for 2007 (2007-2008)

Introduction of the Annual Performance Report

The Annual Performance Report is a Federal reporting requirement to provide yearly updates for each state's progress meeting 14 indicators from the State Performance Plan submitted December 2, 2005 and revised February 1, 2009. The State Performance Plan was developed with six years of targets and improvement activities to provide results for meeting the needs of infants and toddlers with known conditions or developmental delays. The following information provides a brief overview of the Iowa birth to three system, the process used for broad stakeholder input and public reporting requirements.

The Early ACCESS Infrastructure

In Iowa, the system that implements the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA-2004) Part C is referred to as Early ACCESS since it is a collaborative system of four state agencies. The four agencies, known as the Signatory Agencies, are the Iowa Department of Education, Iowa Department of Public Health, Iowa Department of Human Services, and the University of Iowa Child Health Specialty Clinics. The Governor of Iowa designated the Department of Education to be the Lead Agency with fiscal and legal responsibilities among the four Signatory Agencies.

The Iowa Council for Early ACCESS (ICEA) is Iowa's State Interagency Coordinating Council, mandated by Federal law of IDEA, Part C. The Governor appoints Council members who represent key constituencies across Iowa. The Council advises and assists the Lead Agency to achieve an effective statewide comprehensive interagency system of integrated early intervention services. The Executive Committee of the Council serves as the decision-making group for the Council and advisory group to the system.

Historically (from 1974 to 2003), Iowa was divided into 15 intermediate agencies (Area Education Agencies) providing specialized services. In 2003, five of the agencies merged, which reduced the total number to 12. In 2005, two more agencies merged reducing the total number to 11. In 2006, two more agencies merged reducing the total number to 10. The original 15 agencies (currently 10 agencies) assumed the role of Regional Grantees and agreed to the fiscal and legal responsibility for ensuring that the Early ACCESS system is carried out regionally. (Iowa is a birth mandate state so the structure was primarily established.) Therefore, the geographic boundaries of the Early ACCESS regions are the same as the Area Education Agency (AEA) boundaries and are referred to as Regional Grantees or Regions. AEA Directors of Special Education serve as the Regional Grantee Administrators. The Regional Grantees and Signatory Agencies work together to identify all eligible children and assure needed early intervention services are provided.

Overview of the Development of the Annual Performance Report (APR) for FFY 2007 (2007-2008)

The State's Interagency Coordinating Council (Iowa Council for Early ACCESS), Regional Grantee Administrators and the Early ACCESS Leadership Group provided stakeholder input regarding the third year reporting requirements for the State Performance Plan (SPP). First members were provided baseline and target data compared to targets established in the SPP. Second, the groups' role in providing input to the Lead Agency for submitting the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Annual Performance Report was reviewed. Third, a question and answer period occurred to clarify any data questions and concepts. Fourth, members worked in small groups to analyze the data and draw conclusions. Lead Agency consultants were available to facilitate and answer questions. Fifth, small group conclusions and comments regarding progress or slippage of meeting targets, root causes, and improvement activities were shared. Analysis conclusions, discussion notes and comments were provided to Lead Agency staff to include in the APR for each indicator.

Several key stakeholder groups were integral in providing input; the group, members, and meeting dates specific to the development of the Annual Performance Report are provided in Table 1.

Table 1.
Group, Members and Meeting Dates of Key Stakeholders Input for APR Development.

Group	Members	Meeting Dates
The Early ACCESS Council	• Parents of Children with Disabilities • Service Providers • Signatory Agencies at the State and Regional Level • Representatives of Insurance Commission • Mental Health Providers • Representatives of Head Start • Local/Regional/State Representatives of Mental Health, Private Medical and Physicians • Higher Education	November 21, 2008 January 16, 2009
Regional Grantee Administrators	• Directors of Special Education for 10 Regional Grantees	June 17-18, 2008 January 8-9, 2009
Early ACCESS Leadership Group	Representatives of the: • Regional Grantees • Signatory Agencies	November 20, 2008

Public Dissemination and Reporting. The Lead Agency will report to the public progress and/or slippage in meeting the "measurable and rigorous targets" of the SPP/APR and performance of each Early Intervention Program (Iowa's Regional Grantee) on the targets in the SPP by posting the FFY 2007 (2007-2008) Iowa Part C Annual Performance Report (APR) submitted to OSEP on the State of Iowa Department of Education website (http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=633&Itemid=1270#LegalRequirementsReports) no later than February 28, 2009. The State Performance Plan (SPP) was updated to include C3 Early Childhood Outcomes FFY 2007 (2007-2008) progress data. The Lead Agency will post the revised SPP (FFY 2007 (2007-2008)) on the same State of Iowa Department of Education website (above) no later than February 28, 2009.

The Iowa Annual Performance Report will be disseminated to the public through the following channels and timelines:

- Posted on the Iowa Department of Education Website: no later than February 28, 2009 at: http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=633&Itemid=1270#LegalRequirementsReports.
- Provided to Regional Grantee Administrators: No later than February 28, 2009;
- Provided to Early ACCESS Leadership Group: February 26, 2009;
- Released to the Public via notice in the newspaper: no later than February 29, 2009; and
- Provided to the Iowa Council of Early ACCESS: March 6, 2009.

Annual Performance Report Structure. The structure of Iowa's APR is based on the following OSEP requirements:

1. **Overview of the Annual Performance Report Development**. Provides brief information regarding broad stakeholder input for development of the report.
2. **Monitoring Priority**. Describes OSEP requirement for IDEA monitoring.
3. **Indicator**. Measures results of the Part C IDEA system for 14 areas.
4. **Measurement**. Requirement provided by OSEP so all states consistently report progress for the 14 indicators.
5. **Measurable/Rigorous Targets**. Compliance indicator targets were set at 100% and performance indicator targets were set by states based on baseline data and broad stakeholder input.
6. **Actual Target Data.** Provides the state's annual data reported for both number and percentages.
7. **Discussion of Improvement Activities Completed and Explanation of Progress or Slippage**. Provides conclusion statements that explain state progress or slippage based on analysis of target data in relationship to established targets.

   Also provides descriptions of the planned improvement activities for the year reported and the effectiveness of the activities. The Improvement Activities are reported using five subheadings:

   a. Verification of data includes the Lead Agency's description of systemic processes used for data verification and accuracy.
   b. Analysis of data to identify concerns describes the state and region analysis of data regarding improvement. Also provides information about findings identified regarding non-compliance of local programs, when applicable.
   c. Analysis of policies, procedures and practices reviews meeting law requirements and implementation and revisions provided.
   d. Technical assistance and professional development activities are described as provided to the regions and Signatory Agencies.
   e. Ongoing monitoring and enforcement as needed reviews the evaluation and monitoring results provided to regions, including correction of any previous non-compliance findings.

8. **Revisions, with Justification, to Proposed Targets/Improvement Activities/Timelines/Resources.** Provides Lead Agency's intentions for maintaining or revising for next FFY year.

Part C State Annual Performance Report (APR) for FFY 2007 (2007-2008)

Overview of the Annual Performance Report Development:

The Part C Annual Performance Report (APR) was developed by Lead Agency staff reviewing baseline data, targets and improvement activities and drafting a report for each indicator. Once draft indicator reports were written, stakeholder groups provided input regarding these three components and comments were compiled. Stakeholder groups included the State Interagency Coordinating Council (Iowa Council for Early ACCESS), Regional Grantee Administrators, Early ACCESS Leadership Group, and the Lead Agency Department of Education staff. See Overview of Annual Performance Report Development section for annual reporting to public.

Monitoring Priority: Early Intervention Services In Natural Environments

Indicator 1: Percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who receive the early intervention services on their IFSPs in a timely manner.

(20 USC 1416(a)(3)(A) and 1442)

The following measurement for this indicator was a requirement of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) for both the six year State Performance Plan and each Annual Performance Report.

Measurement:

Percent = [(# of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who receive the early intervention services on their IFSPs in a timely manner) divided by the total # of infants and toddlers with IFSPs)] times 100.

Account for untimely receipt of services.

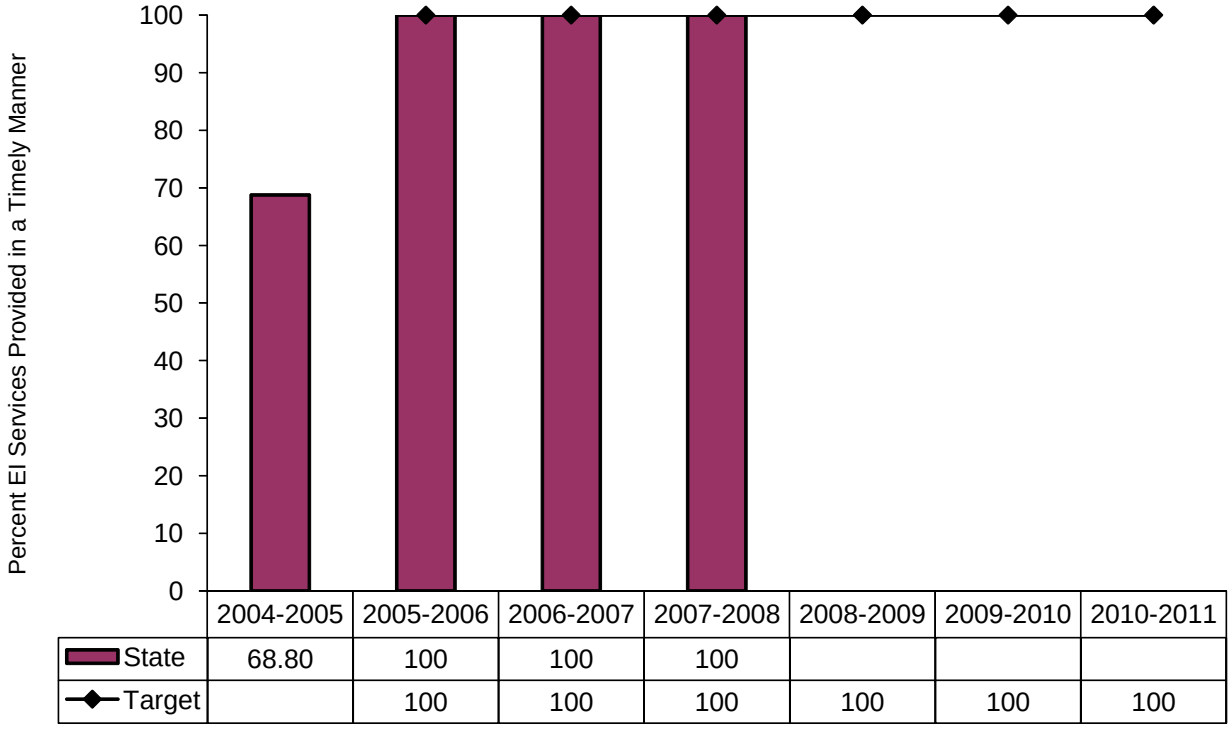
The provision of early intervention services in a timely manner is a compliance indicator and OSEP designated the measurable and rigorous target at 100%. Each annual target of the six year State Performance Plan is set at 100%.

FFY	Measurable and Rigorous Target
2007 (2007-2008)	100% of infants and toddlers with IFSPs receive early intervention services on their IFSPs in a timely manner.

Actual Target Data for FFY 2007 (2007-2008):
Timely services are measured per child with an IFSP within 30 calendar days from the date of parental consent for initial services as well as all new services in subsequent IFSPs. Data are based on the actual number of days, not the average between parental consent or the date specified on the IFSP for initiation of services. Iowa included in its calculation children for whom the State had identified the cause for the delay as exceptional family circumstances. The Lead Agency monitored all Regional Grantees for timely services for all children's IFSPs through data collected by the state education Information Management System (IMS).

Figure C1.1 shows the state baseline and three years' target data for provision of timely services. As noted in the figure, the state target was met for both FFY 2005 (2005-2006), FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and FFY 2007 (2007-2008). For baseline and FFY 2005 (2005-2006), timely services were monitored by the Lead Agency using an annual statewide IFSP file review process. For FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and FFY 2007 (2007-2008), Part C census data from the state Information Management System (IMS) were used to report on timely services. This allowed for reporting on services for all children's IFSPs in the Part C census versus using only a sampling from each region. Calculation of timely services included no delays due to exceptional family circumstances.

Figure C1.1. State Percent of Infants and Toddlers with IFSPs Who Receive Early Intervention Services on Their IFSPs in a Timely Manner.



Source. Regional File Review Self-Assessment FFY 2004 (2004-2005) - FFY 2005 (2005-2006) and Iowa Information System (IMS) FFY 2006 (2006-2007) - FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

Table C1.1 provides the number of child IFSPs reviewed for FFY 2007 (2007-2008) for which all new early intervention services (on initial and any subsequent IFSPs) were provided to infants and toddlers and families in a timely manner, total number of child IFSPs reviewed per Regional Grantee, and the percent of infants and toddlers and families who received initial services and any subsequent new IFSP services in a timely manner.

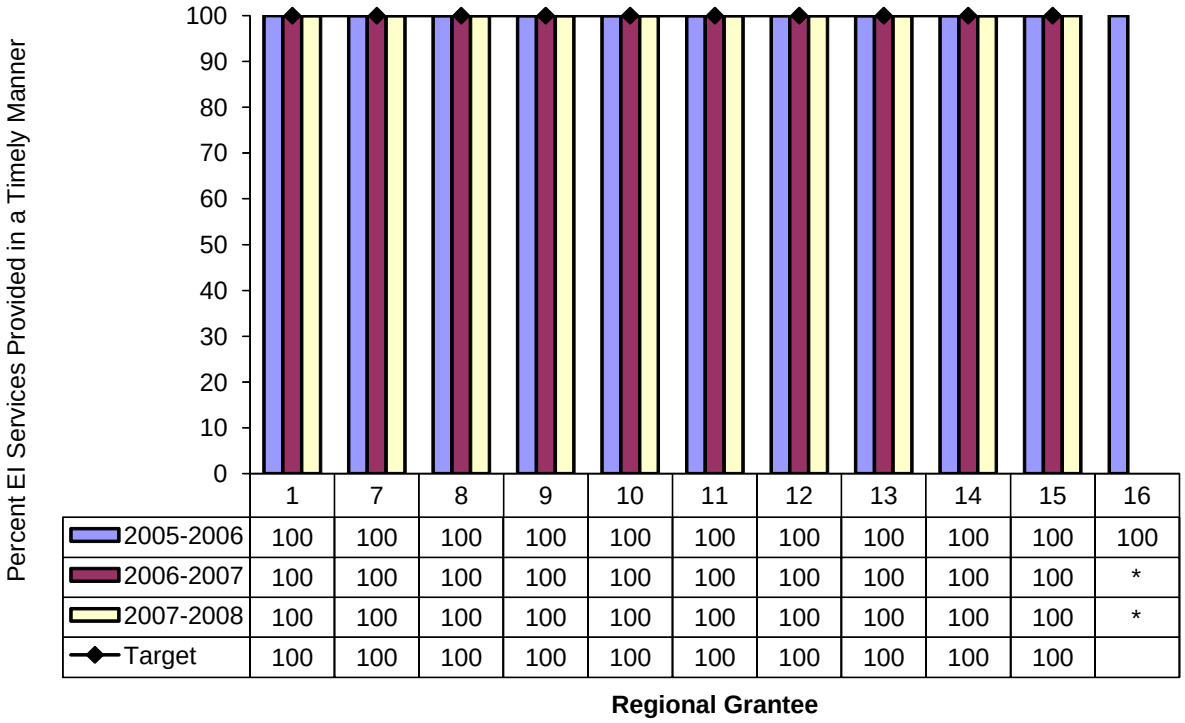
Table C1.1
Regional Grantee Number and Percent of Infant and Toddler IFSPs for Which All Services Were Provided in a Timely Manner.

Regional Grantee and State Total										
1	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**	**State**
286/286	685/685	315/315	586/586	710/710	1645/1645	542/542	295/295	97/97	426/426	5587/5587
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source. Iowa Information Management System (IMS) FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

Data indicated that 100% of infants and toddlers received all early intervention services within 30 days of the consent for services. Figure C1.2 shows each Regional Grantee's provision of timely services from the first year's target FFY 2005 (2005-2006) when sampling data were used and FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and FFY 2007 (2007-2008) when data review changed to census data from IMS.

Figure C1.2. Regional Grantee Percent of Early Intervention Services Provided in a Timely Manner, Three-Year Trend.



	1	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
2005-2006	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
2006-2007	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*
2007-2008	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*
Target	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	

Source. Regional File Review Self-Assessment FFY 2005 (2005-2006) and Iowa Information Management System (IMS) FFY 2006 (2006-2007) - FFY 2007 (2007-2008).
* *Note.* In FFY 2006 (2006-2007) Regional Grantees 15 and 16 merged. Data for both are reported as Regional Grantee 15.

Discussion of Improvement Activities Completed and Explanation of Progress or Slippage that Occurred for FFY 2007 (2007-2008):

Iowa achieved the 100% target for timely services in FFY 2007 (2007-2008). All new IFSP services were provided within 30 calendar days of parental consent. Calculation of timely services included no delays due to exceptional family circumstances.

Several improvement activities were continued to impact meeting the target for this indicator. The activities included verification of data, analysis of data, analysis of policies, procedures, and practices, technical assistance, and ongoing monitoring.

Verification of data. In FFY 2006 (2006-2007), the data collection system for timely services transitioned from the Part C Self-Assessment File Review to Iowa's Information Management System (IMS). The file review process analyzed only 10% or a minimum of 15 child files in each of the state's Regional Grantee areas. Collecting data through the IMS allowed for the Part C census collection of timely services data for initial and subsequent services for the FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and FFY 2007 (2007-2008) reporting years.

Iowa's IMS data system entails data checks at several steps:

Step 1. Regional Grantee IMS data entry personnel are trained to review IFSPs for completeness and consistency. If needed, IFSP team members are contacted to clarify or complete specific data or the IFSP is returned for corrections.

Step 2. When data are entered into IMS, several types of automatic data quality messages appear on the IMS screens:

- When a new eligible child is entered, the statewide historical database is queried to see if the child may have had an earlier IFSP. A list of near matches, based on name and birth date, is provided so that data personnel can check to see if the new child was previously served. This routine reduces the risk of the same child having two different IMS identification numbers.
- Some data fields are required before data entry can continue. For example, if the resident district code, gender, ethnicity, birth date, or serve status is left blank, a message appears with a prompt and no further data entry is allowed until a valid value is entered.
- For other data fields, a message appears but data entry may continue. For example, if a code is left blank, a message advises the operator but data entry continues. These messages are saved and written to a Verification Report (see below).

Step 3. A Verification Report, sorted by Regional Grantee, lists data warnings and possible data errors that need to be checked. The report is run in real time so it is continuously updated and available to data entry personnel. Data entry personnel review the report for his or her respective Regional Grantee, cross checking against the IFSP and following up with Regional Grantee and local IFSP team members as needed. Types of warnings in the report include possible duplicate children, questionable age/IFSP age-eligibility combination, blank code, invalid program/service combination, and invalid full-part time code. The Verification Report is monitored by the Lead Agency to ensure that Regional Grantees regularly access and review potential errors during the two critical seasons for data entry (count/setting and exit).

Step 4. Lead Agency data personnel periodically review IMS, personnel, and discipline data and contact IMS and Regional Grantee staff with specific accuracy issues above and beyond the Verification Report to rectify any data abnormalities.

Data verification procedures for IMS are described in more depth in Indicator 14.

Analysis of data to identify concerns. Data on FFY 2004 (2004-2005) baseline, FFY 2005 (2005-2006), FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and FFY 2007 (2007-2008) timely services were analyzed by Lead Agency, Regional Grantee Leadership and State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC). The 100% performance was maintained for FFY 2006 (2006-2007) when data review changed to census data from IMS. The change in data collection strengthened the validity of the measure in identifying potential concerns for delays in the provision of timely services.

Analysis of policies, procedures and practices. The Lead Agency reviewed Regional Grantee Part C policies and procedures including 30-day timely services for all IFSP types as part of the Regional Grantee application process. Regional Grantees assure provision of services from employed and contracted staff are available with the initiation of the IFSP (parent consent). After analyzing data regarding services in the timely manner, the Lead Agency reviewed but did not revise policies. During FFY 2007 (2007-2008), Regional Grantees Administrators (Area Education Agencies) made a commitment to develop and adopt uniform procedures for implementation of IDEA, Parts C and B. Committees were formed with membership from each Regional Grantee/AEA and Lead Agency staff to write the portions of the AEA IDEA Part B and C Procedures Manual. The Manual will be launched in FFY 2008 (2008-2009) and is intended to improve consistency in implementation of IDEA across the state and an opportunity to clarify issues that the field has identified.

Technical assistance. According to Regional Grantees' Year End Reports, trainings regarding the implementation and documentation of service initiation within 30 days of the IFSP meeting were held. The competency based Service Coordination Training Program continued to be implemented statewide. The five service coordination modules were based on federal statute, research, and best practice. These modules focused on effective service coordination, incorporating state policies and procedures, and best practices regarding timely service provision. An interagency pool of trainers designated by Regional Grantee Administration and Signatory Agencies implemented the Service Coordination training. These trainers attended intensive three-day Approved Trainer sessions for each module of training delivered. Trainers provided module trainings in FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and FFY 2007 (2007-2008) throughout the state. Eighty-eight percent (88%) of all 317 service coordinators in the state completed the requirements of the training program. Iowa anticipates that when data collection occurs in FFY 2008 (2008-2009), the other 22% will attend trainings as scheduled alternately throughout the regions during FFY 2008 (2008-2009) and all current service coordinators will meet service coordinator competency training requirements.

Innovative systemic efforts to improve timely and coordinated services were continued by the Polk County Juvenile court who started the *Court Teams for Change* project. The goal was to improve outcomes for infants and toddlers who have been removed from the home due to parental drug use or domestic violence. This collaborative effort involved the juvenile court, *Zero To Three* (a national infant-toddler advocacy organization), the Iowa Department of Human Services, service providers and Early ACCESS.

The *Court Teams for Change* workgroup with Lead Agency and Regional Grantee involvement met monthly to improve the delivery of services to the child and family. The first year of the project focused on developing interagency protocols that could facilitate a rapid response to infants and toddlers who had been removed from the home. The second and third year FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and FFY 2007 (2007-2008) was devoted to implementing and refining the research-based model.

Analysis of trend data from Iowa Department of Human Services FY 2005 through FY 2008 was conducted at the end of 2008. Data revealed that, prior to the Court Teams for Change project, the number of children in the project's service area who were abused or neglected and on IFSPs was lower than other service areas of the state. After working collaboratively with Early ACCESS

and juvenile courts the number of DHS clients served by Early ACCESS increased significantly (doubled).

During FFY 2007 (2007-2008), the *Court Teams for Change* project also focused on disseminating the model statewide and providing technical assistance to agencies that want to adopt the model. A related effort, *Court Improvement Project,* submitted a successful grant application to provide funding to five different sites in Iowa. Partners are developing supports through intensive community collaboration as well as instituting research-based and best practices to enhance practice and outcomes for parents and children.

Ongoing monitoring and enforcement as needed. No non-compliance findings were identified during FFY 2006 (2006-2007) as the Regional Grantees were all at 100% for this indicator.

In FFY 2007 (2007-2008), the Lead Agency reviewed timely services data for all Regional Grantees. No noncompliance findings were identified and no enforcement actions were needed as the 100% target for timely services was met for all grantees.

Each region submitted year end reports to document improvement activities that were conducted to maintain state targets for this indicator. Regional Grantees conducted activities in FFY 2007 (2007-2008) to maintain their 100% performance in timely services including training on proper documentation; training on rules, procedures and the need to begin services within 30 days of consent; administrative and/or team review of IFSPs for timeliness; development of IFSP rubric for administrative reviews; and routine administrative review of C1 data reports. Current activities have been effective in maintaining 100% performance for this indicator and, therefore, will be continued.

Revisions, with Justification, to Proposed Targets/Improvement Activities/Timelines/ Resources for FFY 2008 (2008-2009):
There are no revisions to Iowa's proposed targets, improvement activities, timelines, or resources for FFY 2008 (2008-2009). In order to maintain target performance, the Lead Agency will continue to implement activities outlined in the State Performance Plan.

Part C State Annual Performance Report (APR) for FFY 2007 (2007-2008)

Overview of the Annual Performance Report Development:

The Part C Annual Performance Report (APR) was developed by Lead Agency staff reviewing baseline data, targets and improvement activities and drafting a report for each indicator. Once draft indicator reports were written, stakeholder groups provided input regarding these three components and comments were compiled. Stakeholder groups included the State Interagency Coordinating Council (Iowa Council for Early ACCESS), Regional Grantee Administrators, Early ACCESS Leadership Group, and the Lead Agency Department of Education staff. See Overview of Annual Performance Report Development section for annual reporting to public.

Monitoring Priority: Early Intervention Services In Natural Environments

Indicator 2: Percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who primarily receive early intervention services in the home or community-based settings (typically developing children).

(20 USC 1416(a)(3)(A) and 1442)

The following measurement for this indicator was a requirement of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) for both the six year State Performance Plan and each Annual Performance Report.

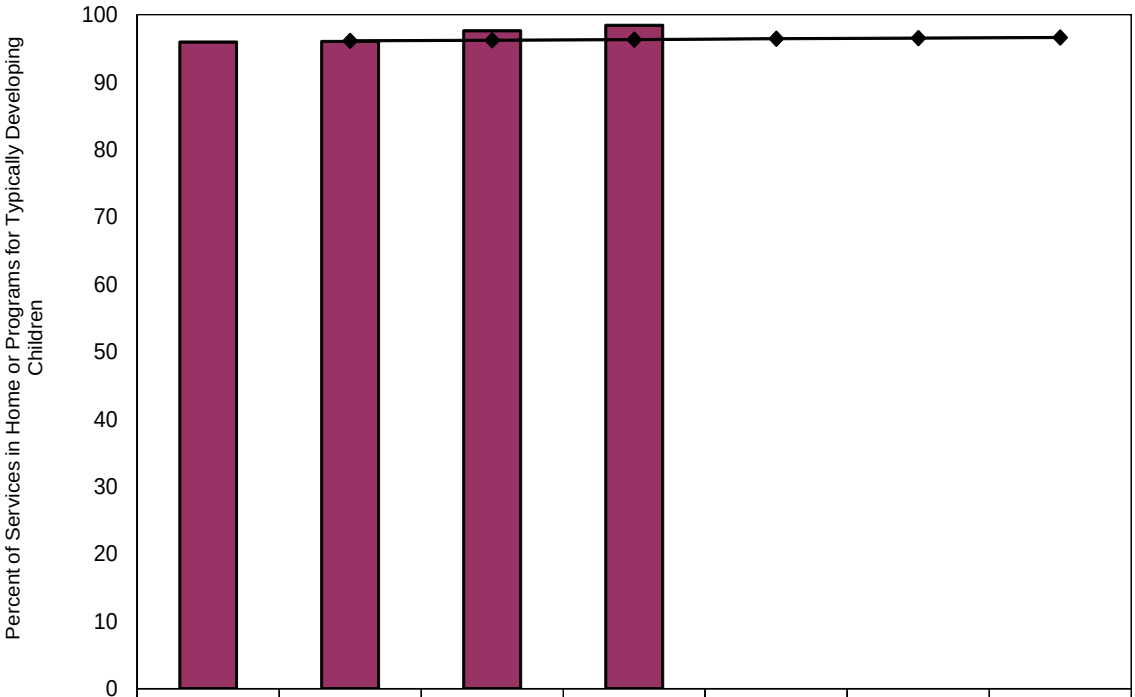
Measurement:
Percent = [(# of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who primarily receive early intervention services in the home or community-based settings) divided by the (total # of infants and toddlers with IFSPs)] times 100.

The provision of early intervention services in natural environments is a performance indicator. Therefore, each state was allowed by OSEP to set their own target from baseline data. The Lead Agency, with input from stakeholder groups, established measurable and rigorous targets ranging from 96.1% to 96.6% for the six-year State Performance Plan.

FFY	Measurable and Rigorous Target
2007 (2007-2008)	96.3% of infants and toddlers with IFSPs primarily receive early intervention services in the home or community-based settings.

Actual Target Data for FFY 2007 (2007-2008):
Data for percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who primarily receive early intervention services in the home or community-based settings were obtained from Iowa's 618 Settings Table data, which are provided by Iowa's Information Management System (IMS). State baseline and target data for the last four years are presented in Figure C2.1.

Figure C2.1. Percent of Infants and Toddlers with IFSPs Primarily Receiving Early Intervention Services in the Home or Community-Based Settings.



	2004-05 Baseline	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Percent	95.90	96.00	97.60	98.40			
Target		96.10	96.20	96.30	96.40	96.50	96.60

Source. Iowa 618 Settings Table, FFY 2004 (2004-2005) – FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

Table C2.1 provides the type, number, and percent of settings where early intervention services were primarily provided to infants and toddlers and their families in FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

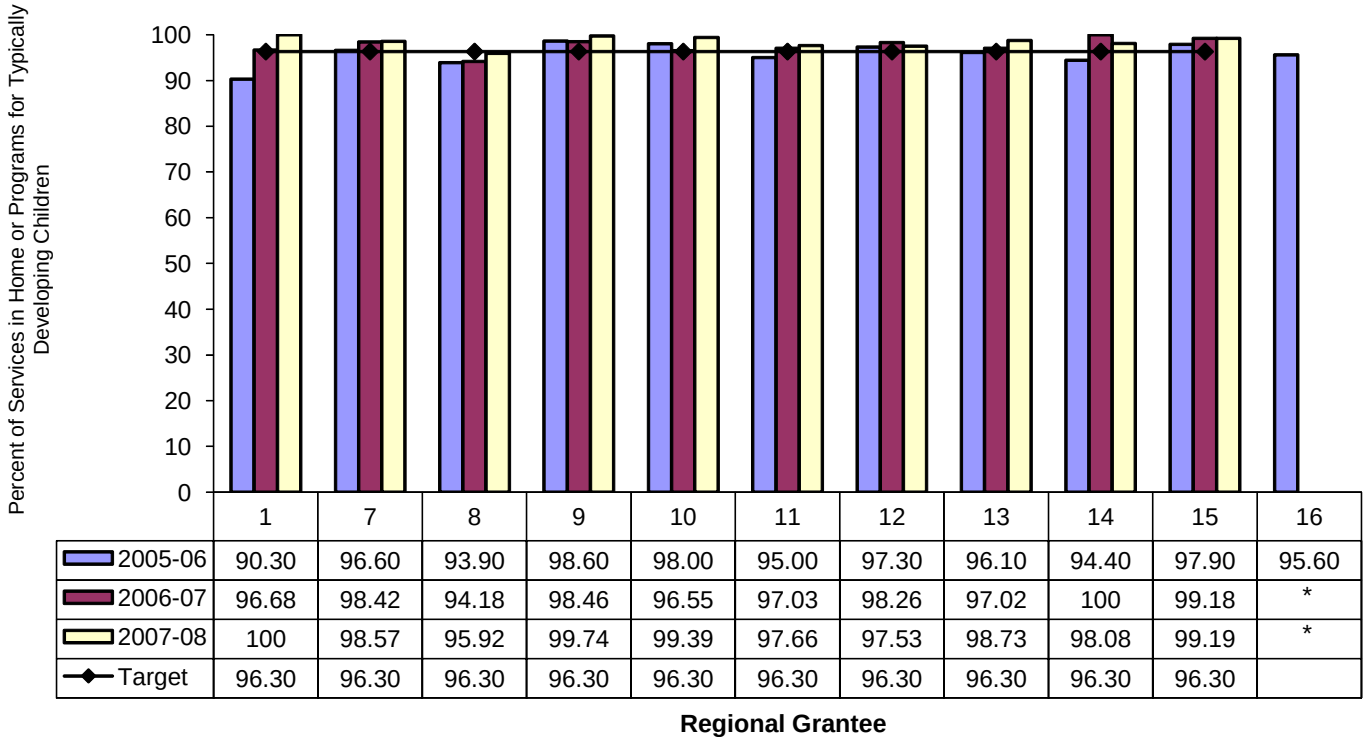
Table C2.1
Number and Percent of Settings Where Early Intervention Services Primarily Provided.

Natural Environment	Number	Percent
Community-based Settings	105	3.30%
Home	3029	95.10%
Other	51	1.60%
Total	3185	100%

Source. Iowa 618 Settings Table, FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

Figure C2.2 provides Regional Grantee percent of services primarily provided in natural environments (home and community-based settings) for FFY 2005 (2005-2006), FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

Figure C2.2.
Regional Grantee Percent of Services Provided in the Natural Environment.



	1	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
2005-06	90.30	96.60	93.90	98.60	98.00	95.00	97.30	96.10	94.40	97.90	95.60
2006-07	96.68	98.42	94.18	98.46	96.55	97.03	98.26	97.02	100	99.18	*
2007-08	100	98.57	95.92	99.74	99.39	97.66	97.53	98.73	98.08	99.19	*
Target	96.30	96.30	96.30	96.30	96.30	96.30	96.30	96.30	96.30	96.30	

Source. Iowa Information Management System (IMS), FFY 2005 (2005-2006) - FFY 2007 (2007-2008).
* *Note.* In FFY 2006 (2006-2007) Regional Grantees 15 and 16 merged. Data for both are reported as Regional Grantee 15.

Table C2.2 provides Regional Grantee numbers of where services were primarily provided in natural environments (home and community-based settings) for FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

Table C2.2
Regional Grantee Percent of Services Provided in the Natural Environment.

	1	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	State
2005-06	90.30%	96.60%	93.90%	98.60%	98.00%	95.00%	97.30%	96.10%	94.40%	97.90%	95.60%	96.00%
2006-07	96.68%	98.42%	94.18%	98.46%	96.55%	97.03%	98.26%	97.02%	100%	99.18%	*	97.61%
2007-08	100%	98.57%	95.92%	99.74%	99.39%	97.66%	97.53%	98.73%	98.08%	99.19%	*	98.40%

Source. Iowa Information Management System (IMS), FFY 2005 (2005-2006) - FFY 2007 (2007-2008).
* *Note.* In FFY 2006 (2006-2007) Regional Grantees 15 and 16 merged. Data for both are reported as Regional Grantee 15.

Discussion of Improvement Activities Completed and Explanation of Progress or Slippage that Occurred for FFY 2007 (2007-2008):

In FFY 2007 (2007-2008) 98.4% of children received services primarily in the home or community-based settings. Iowa exceeded its target of 96.3% and 6-year target of 96.6%. As shown in Table C2.1, the majority of services were provided in the home. Services provided in community-based settings, such as childcare settings, were minimal. "Other" environments, such as clinics and residential facilities, were also minimal.

As shown in Figure C2.2, nine of 10 Regional Grantees met or exceeded the State of Iowa target of 96.30% for early intervention services provided in the natural environment. The one Regional Grantee below the target did increase from 94.18% to 95.92%.

It is noted that two Regions experienced slippage, but both regions remain well above the target of 96.30%. Regional Grantee data analyses revealed individualized circumstances of the children's needs were better met in settings other than a natural environment. Current activities have been effective in meeting the target for this indicator and therefore will be continued.

All Regional Grantees provided services in the home and community-based settings above the national average of 91.59%. The State of Iowa has implemented a model of serving children in the natural environment for many years. In reviewing prior trend data, the percent of infants and toddlers served in the natural environment has been consistently higher than the national average.

The Lead Agency engaged in a variety of improvement activities to assure children were served in natural environments to the maximum extent appropriate and that individualized decisions were made about those settings. Improvement activities concentrated on service coordinator training and ongoing monitoring.

Verification of data. Data are based on the 618 Settings Table, which are collected through Iowa's Information Management System (IMS). Iowa's IMS data system entails data checks at several steps:

Step 1. Regional Grantee IMS data entry personnel are trained to review IFSPs for completeness and consistency. If needed, IFSP team members are contacted to clarify or complete specific data or the IFSP is returned for corrections.

Step 2. When data are entered into IMS, several types of automatic data quality messages appear on the IMS screens:

- When a new eligible child is entered, the statewide historical database is queried to see if the child may have had an earlier IFSP. A list of near matches, based on name and birth date, is provided so that data entry personnel can check to see if the new child was previously served. This routine reduces the risk of the same child having two different IMS identification numbers.
- Some data fields are required before data entry can continue. For example, if the resident district code, gender, ethnicity, birth date, or serve status is left blank, a message appears with a prompt and no further data entry is allowed until a valid value is entered.
- For other data fields, a message appears but data entry may continue. For example, if the code is left blank, a message advises the operator but data entry continues. These messages are saved and written to a Verification Report (see below).

Step 3. A Verification Report sorted by Regional Grantee, lists data warnings and possible data errors that need to be checked. The report is run in real time so it is continuously updated and available to data entry personnel. Data entry personnel review the report for his or her respective Regional Grantee, cross checking against the IFSP and following up with Regional Grantee and local IFSP team members as needed.

Types of warnings in the report include possible duplicate children, questionable age/IFSP age-eligibility combination, blank code, invalid program/service combination, and invalid full-part time code. The Verification Report is monitored by the Lead Agency to ensure that Regional Grantees regularly access and review potential errors during the two critical seasons for data entry (count/setting and exit).

Step 4. Lead Agency data personnel periodically review IMS, personnel, and discipline data and contact IMS and Regional Grantee staff with specific accuracy issues above and beyond the Verification Report to rectify any data abnormalities.

Data verification procedures for IMS are described in more depth in Indicator 14.

The state's annual Self-Assessment File Review process also looked at settings per service and justification for services that do not occur in natural environments. Each Regional Grantee used the tool to conduct IFSP file reviews on a random sample comprising 10% (or a minimum of 15 files, whichever was larger) of their total number of eligible children served. The Lead Agency provided the random sample for the Regional Grantees.

Analysis of data to identify concerns. Data on FFY 2004 (2004-2005) baseline, FFY 2005 (2005-2006), FFY 2006 (2006-2007), and FFY 2007 (2007-2008) services in natural environments were analyzed by Lead Agency, Regional Grantee Leadership and State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC). One Regional Grantee was 0.38% below the target of 96.3%; all other regions were above the target for FFY 2007 (2007-2008). Stakeholders were generally satisfied with state performance, trend and target.

The Regional Grantee that did not meet the state target was required to analyze data for root causes and submit an improvement plan with research/evidence-based strategies.

Analysis of policies, procedures and practices. All Regional Grantees were required to have their procedures approved by the Lead Agency, which include services in natural environments. The Lead Agency's review assured that procedures met federal requirements and state rules. Analysis of data revealed no need to revise state policies and procedures, but did indicate a need to strengthen through training and supervision the regional implementation of procedures and guidance on selection of setting codes for Indicator C2 and 618 Settings Table data collection.

Technical assistance. In order to enhance services in natural environments, the Lead Agency, Signatory Agencies and Regional Grantees continued several initiatives during FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

The competency based Service Coordination Training Program continued to be offered statewide as part of the system infrastructure of technical assistance and support. The five service coordination modules were based on federal statute, research, and best practice. These modules focused on effective service coordination, incorporating state policies and procedures, and best practices regarding timely service provision. Module 3, *The Early ACCESS Process*, specifically attends to services in natural environments and IFSP documentation. An interagency pool of trainers designated by Regional Grantee Administration and Signatory Agencies implemented the Service Coordination training. These trainers attended intensive three-day Approved Trainer sessions for each module of training delivered. Trainers provided module trainings in FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and FFY 2007 (2007-2008) throughout the state. Eighty-eight percent (88%) of all 317 service coordinators in the state completed the requirements of the training program. Iowa anticipates that when data collection occurs in FFY 2008 (2008-2009), the other 22% will attend trainings as scheduled alternately throughout the regions during FFY 2008 (2008-2009) and all current service coordinators will meet service coordinator competency training requirements.

In FFY 2007 (2007-2008) regions focused on implementation of The ABC (Asset-Based Context) Matrix after statewide training occurred in all regions in FFY 2006 (2007-2008). During FFY 2007 (2007-2008) trained trainers provided workshops in three regions to Service Coordinators and providers. The ABC Matrix is a functional assessment tool for parents and practitioners in early childhood and family support programs and used to identify existing and potential contextually meaningful and relevant learning opportunities and activities for children. This research-based tool is used to gather a rich array of information from families about a child's everyday life. That information is used to develop quality outcomes that lead to appropriate intervention planning and the provision of early Intervention services in the natural environment.

State staff met regularly with AEA Special Education Directors and Regional Liaisons to provide technical assistance and to obtain recommendations regarding regional needs, including natural environments.

Ongoing monitoring and enforcement as needed. In FFY 2007 (2007-2008) the Lead Agency monitored services in natural environments in all Regional Grantees, including individualized team decision-making regarding service settings. No file review findings were identified and no enforcement actions were needed. Regional performance in Indicator C2 was monitored. One region did not meet the indicator target in FFY 2007 (2007-2008). If a region did not meet state targets, they were required to analyze data for root causes and submit an improvement plan with research/evidence-based strategies.

Each region submitted year end reports to document improvement activities that were conducted to reach and/or maintain state targets in all indicators. According to FFY 2007 (2007-2008) Regional Grantees' Year End Reports, the Regional Grantees held ongoing service coordination trainings that covered rules, policies and procedures regarding service provision in natural environments unless exceptional circumstances existed; training on appropriate selection of data setting codes; and supervisory IFSP file reviews. Supervisory support is given to new staff to assure they are consistently using appropriate setting codes. Regional Grantee data analyses revealed individualized circumstances of the children's needs were better met in settings other than a natural environment. Current activities have been effective in meeting the target for this indicator and therefore will be continued.

Revisions, with Justification, to Proposed Targets/Improvement Activities/Timelines/ Resources for FFY 2008 (2008-2009):

There are no revisions to Iowa's proposed targets, improvement activities, timelines, or resources for FFY 2008 (2008-2009). In order to maintain target performance, the Lead Agency will continue to implement activities outlined in the State Performance Plan.

Part C State Annual Performance Report (APR) for FFY 2007 (2007-2008)

Part C State Performance Plan (SPP) for 2005-2010

Overview of the State Performance Plan Development:

Note. This indicator is being submitted February 1, 2009 using the State Performance Plan template, following General Instructions of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).

Please see pages 1-5 of the State Performance Plan, revised February 2, 2009 for State Performance Plan Development.

The Lead Agency will report to the public progress and/or slippage in meeting the "measurable and rigorous targets" found in the SPP/APR by posting the FFY 2007 (2007-2008) SPP on the State of Iowa Department of Education website no later than February 28, 2009: (http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=633&Itemid=1270#LegalRequirementsReports). Any changes to the SPP accepted by OSEP will be posted within 30 days of receipt of the FFY 2007 (2007-2008) response letter to Iowa expected for receipt prior to July 1, 2009.

Monitoring Priority: Early Intervention Services In Natural Environments

Indicator 3: Percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who demonstrate improved:

A. Positive social-emotional skills (including social relationships);
B. Acquisition and use of knowledge and skills (including early language/communication); and
C. Use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs.

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(A) and 1442)

The following measurement for this indicator was a requirement of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) for both the six year State Performance Plan and each Annual Performance Report.

Measurement:

A. Positive social-emotional skills (including social relationships):

a. Percent of infants and toddlers who did not improve functioning = [(# of infants and toddlers who did not improve functioning) divided by (# of infants and toddlers with IFSPs assessed)] times 100.

b. Percent of infants and toddlers who improved functioning but not sufficient to move nearer to functioning comparable to same-aged peers = [(# of infants and toddlers who improved functioning but not sufficient to move nearer to functioning comparable to same-aged peers) divided by (# of infants and toddlers with IFSPs assessed)] times 100.

c. Percent of infants and toddlers who improved functioning to a level nearer to same-aged peers but did not reach it = [(# of infants and toddlers who improved functioning to a level nearer to same-aged peers but did not reach it) divided by (# of infants and toddlers with IFSPs assessed)] times 100.

d. Percent of infants and toddlers who improved functioning to reach a level comparable to same-aged peers = [(# of infants and toddlers who improved functioning to reach a level comparable to same-aged peers) divided by (# of infants and toddlers with IFSPs assessed)] times 100.

e. Percent of infants and toddlers who maintained functioning at a level comparable to same-aged peers = [(# of infants and toddlers who maintained functioning at a level comparable to same-aged peers) divided by (# of infants and toddlers with IFSPs assessed)] times 100.

If a + b + c + d + e does not sum to 100%, explain the difference**.**

B. Acquisition and use of knowledge and skills (including early language/communication):

a. Percent of infants and toddlers who did not improve functioning = [(# of infants and toddlers who did not improve functioning) divided by (# of infants and toddlers with IFSPs assessed)] times 100.

b. Percent of infants and toddlers who improved functioning but not sufficient to move nearer to functioning comparable to same-aged peers = [(# of infants and toddlers who improved functioning but not sufficient to move nearer to functioning comparable to same-aged peers) divided by (# of infants and toddlers with IFSPs assessed)] times 100.

c. Percent of infants and toddlers who improved functioning to a level nearer to same-aged peers but did not reach it = [(# of infants and toddlers who improved functioning to a level nearer to same-aged peers but did not reach it) divided by (# of infants and toddlers with IFSPs assessed)] times 100.

d. Percent of infants and toddlers who improved functioning to reach a level comparable to same-aged peers = [(# of infants and toddlers who improved functioning to reach a level comparable to same-aged peers) divided by (# of infants and toddlers with IFSPs assessed)] times 100.

e. Percent of infants and toddlers who maintained functioning at a level comparable to same-aged peers = [(# of infants and toddlers who maintained functioning at a level comparable to same-aged peers) divided by (# of infants and toddlers with IFSPs assessed)] times 100.

If a + b + c + d + e does not sum to 100%, explain the difference**.**

C. Use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs:

a. Percent of infants and toddlers who did not improve functioning = [(# of infants and toddlers who did not improve functioning) divided by (# of infants and toddlers with IFSPs assessed)] times 100.

b. Percent of infants and toddlers who improved functioning but not sufficient to move nearer to functioning comparable to same-aged peers = [(# of infants and toddlers who improved functioning but not sufficient to move nearer to functioning comparable to same-aged peers) divided by the (# of infants and toddlers with IFSPs assessed)] times 100.

c. Percent of infants and toddlers who improved functioning to a level nearer to same-aged peers but did not reach it = [(# of infants and toddlers who improved functioning to a level nearer to same-aged peers but did not reach it) divided by the (# of infants and toddlers with IFSPs assessed)] times 100.

d. Percent of infants and toddlers who improved functioning to reach a level comparable to same-aged peers = [(# of infants and toddlers who improved functioning to reach a level comparable to same-aged peers) divided by the (# of infants and toddlers with IFSPs assessed)] times 100.

e. Percent of infants and toddlers who maintained functioning at a level comparable to same-aged peers = [(# of infants and toddlers who maintained functioning at a level comparable to same-aged peers) divided by the (# of infants and toddlers with IFSPs assessed)] times 100.

If a + b + c + d + e does not sum to 100%, explain the difference**.**

Overview of Issue / Description of System or Process:

The Lead Agency began in FFY 2004 (2004-2005) to design a statewide accountability system that measured early childhood outcomes for infants and toddlers in Part C Early ACCESS. The system expanded upon Iowa's systematic process to monitor progress for performance on Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) child outcomes in addition to using multiple measures to gather data on children's performance.

During FFY 2005 (2005-2006), the Lead Agency developed the Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO) Summary form based on a three-level rating scale (yes, emerging, no) that summarized each child's level of functioning in each of the ECO areas in relation to same aged-peers. The IFSP Teams began using the ECO Summary form for all children entering Early ACCESS services after January 31, 2006 in order to report baseline data on the percent of infants and toddlers in the three measurement categories (Reach/Maintain, Improve or Did Not Improve Functioning) in each of the ECO areas to be reported in the State Performance Plan (SPP) for Indicator C3.

Due to changes of the SPP measurement categories for the early childhood outcome indicator announced in the fall of 2006, the Lead Agency revised the statewide accountability system in order to gather the data for reporting the percent of infants and toddlers in five measurement categories in each of the 3 ECO areas.

The Lead Agency incorporated the Child Outcomes Summary Form (COSF), developed by the OSEP-funded National Early Childhood Outcomes Center, into a revision of the ECO Summary form. The revised ECO Summary form, when completed by IFSP Teams as described below, provides data to report on children in 1 of 5 categories in the measurement required by Indicator C3. The revised ECO Summary form uses: (a) the 7-point scale from the COSF, and (b) the question from the COSF on progress. The revised ECO Summary Form has an additional section to report supporting evidence on assessment methods and sources of information used by IFSP Teams to generate the data used in rating performance.

The Lead Agency required Regional Grantees and Signatory Agencies to adopt the revised ECO Summary Form. The Lead Agency required IFSP Teams to complete the revised ECO Summary form for all children that had an initial IFSP meeting beginning July 1, 2006. Use of the revised ECO Summary Form ensures valid data and supporting evidence on children's functioning in comparison to peers or standards using the 7-point outcome rating scale.

To ensure quality professional development for ECO, the Lead Agency used the National ECO Center's training materials and resources (e.g., Decision Tree for Summary Rating Discussions, Age-Expected Child Development Resources and COSF Training Materials). Use of the ECO training material provided assurance that all IFSP Teams in Iowa have been trained to implement consistent procedures for gathering, analyzing and reporting these data on the revised ECO Summary Form.

Beginning FFY 2006 (2006-2007), Iowa's accountability system provided the data to determine the differences early intervention services made for infants and toddlers in the areas of positive social-emotional skills; acquisition and use of knowledge and skills; and use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs as defined by the five measurement categories. The data were used to inform policy makers and stakeholders of children's functional skills and progress, advance implementation of evidence-based curricula and assessment practices and improve interventions to meet the needs of children with developmental delays or known conditions.

The ECO data are gathered on all infants and toddlers determined eligible for Early ACCESS services, regardless of their early intervention services or areas of concern. Iowa's accountability system for ECO includes several components:

- Policies and procedures to guide assessment and measurement practices;
- Technical assistance for specified staff to support data collection and use;
- Monitoring procedures to ensure data accuracy; and

- Information Management System for data entry, maintenance and analysis.

Policies and procedures to guide assessment and measurement practices. The evaluation requirements established in IDEA and the *Iowa Administrative Rules for Early ACCESS* ensure that Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) Teams use valid and reliable assessments and evaluation materials administered by trained and knowledgeable personnel (IAC 281-120.40). Each Regional Grantee, as required by the *Iowa Administrative Rules for Early ACCESS,* has written and adopted evaluation policies and procedures that were approved by the Lead Agency. The policies and procedures are on file with the Lead Agency.

A comprehensive evaluation of a child's present level of development and unique needs was completed as required by the *Iowa Administrative Rules of Early ACCESS*. Subsequent to the determination of eligibility for early intervention services and development of the IFSP, the child's entry point data for age-appropriate functioning across settings and situations were discussed and summarized on the *ECO Summary* form as a part of a child's IFSP meeting.

In FFY 2005 (2005-2006), after analyzing baseline data, the Lead Agency established an in-house work group to research and analyze early identification and eligibility practices and requirements. The statewide work group studied service providers' challenges and brought in national experts in evaluation and assessment including the OSEP-funded National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (NECTAC) for two meetings. The workgroup's analysis provided information about the evaluation practices for determining children's performance as reported for Indicator C3.

Based on recommendations from the workgroup, the Lead Agency determined that regional procedures needed to be revised and guidance provided to the Regional Grantees and Signatory Agencies. During FFY 2006 (2006-2007), the statewide workgroup developed guidelines and presented the guidelines to Regional Grantee Administrators and Leadership Groups, Executive Committee of the ICC, and Signatory Agencies for feedback. The guidelines were revised each time to reflect input from the groups.

During FFY 2007 (2007-2008), Regional Grantees Administrators (Area Education Agencies) made a commitment to develop and adopt uniform procedures for implementation of IDEA, Parts C and B. Committees were formed with membership from each Regional Grantee/AEA and Lead Agency staff to write portions of the *AEA IDEA Part B and C Procedures Manual.* The Early ACCESS Procedures Manual Committee studied the recommendations of the aforementioned statewide workgroup and incorporated the work into the Part C section of the manual in order to enhance systematic evaluation, assessment and initial IFSP meetings for children referred to Early ACCESS. The Manual also will include procedures for Early Childhood Outcomes. The Manual will be launched in FFY 2008 (2008-2009) and is intended to improve consistency in implementation of IDEA across the state and an opportunity to clarify issues that the field has identified.

As a part of each child's annual IFSP review, a child's age-appropriate functioning and progress made in his or her skills and behaviors were determined based on multiple sources of data gathered using multiple methods such as record reviews, interviews, observations, performance monitoring data on IFSP goals and ongoing child assessments. The *ECO Summary* form is used to summarize the child's skills and behaviors in comparison to the functioning expected for the age of the child and the child's progress in each of the three ECO areas.

ECO is a systematic process to determine children's functioning compared to same-aged peers and to determine progress in skills and behaviors in the three ECO areas. All infants and toddlers who met the following criteria were included in ECO: (1) Eligible for Early ACCESS, and (2) Received Early ACCESS services for at least six months. The ECO data were gathered upon eligibility to Early ACCESS services and annually thereafter as part of IFSP reviews until the child exited Early ACCESS services (e.g., transition to Part B or other community services).

Procedures for the ECO process, conducted by the IFSP Team, includes two phases: (A) Initial IFSP and (B) Annual IFSP Review and Exit from Part C:

A. Initial IFSP:

1. Analysis of ECO Entry Point data, FFY 2007 (2007-2008) for reporting in 2009 SPP.
   a. Data at Entry Point were obtained according to Early ACCESS policies and procedures and Iowa Administrative Rules. Multiple methods of collecting data from various sources were used for eligibility determination and program planning that included Record reviews, Interviews, Observations and Tests/Assessments (RIOT). The IFSP Team determines the methods for collecting data based upon the unique needs of the child. The various test/assessment procedures included the use of behavior checklists, structured interactions, play-based assessments, adaptive and developmental scales, and curriculum-based, criterion-referenced and norm-referenced assessment instruments.

   The commonly used assessment instruments used by IFSP Teams included, but were not limited to the Developmental Assessment of Young Children, Carolina Curriculum for Infants and Toddlers with Special Needs Assessment, Hawaii Early Learning Profile, Developmental Observation Checklist System and the Assessment, Evaluation and Programming System for Infants and Children. In addition, research-based Iowa Early Learning Standards, developed by stakeholders with expertise in child development and early education, were used to guide peer comparisons of developmental ages and stages of infants' and toddlers' comprehensive skills. Therefore, a crosswalk of the Iowa Early Learning Standards with the ECO areas was developed to illustrate the alignment of state expectations for what young children know and are able to do in each of the ECO areas.

   b. Analysis of Entry Point data were conducted by triangulating data (record reviews, interviews, observations, tests/assessments as described above) across multiple investigators, the IFSP Team members.[1]

2. Determination of ECO Entry Point status.
   a. Determination of status at Entry Point was based on the results of triangulation of data and the completion of the ECO Summary form.
   b. The ECO Summary form for comparison to peers is a seven-point rating scale used to summarize each child's level of functioning in each of the three ECO areas in relation to same-aged peers. A rating of six or seven indicated the outcome was achieved at a level comparable to same aged peers across a variety of settings and situations, and a rating of one through five indicated the child's functioning was below age-appropriate skills expected of a child his or her age.
3. Documenting, entering, and reporting of ECO Entry Point status.
   a. Documenting Entry Point status was the IFSP Team's responsibility to complete the ECO Summary form to document results at the IFSP meeting.
   b. Entering documented results from the ECO Summary form into Iowa's central database system for Early ACCESS (Information Management System-IMS) was completed by trained data entry personnel. IMS has established data parameters, and does not accept a rating other than what was determined on the ECO Summary's seven-point rating scale.
   c. Reporting occurs on an annual basis for the Lead Agency and Regional Grantees, as well as IFSP Teams, who have ongoing access to results as documented on the ECO Summary form.

B. IFSP Annual Review and Exit from Part C:

[1] Data triangulation and technical adequacy are described in detail in the discussion of Collection and Analysis of Baseline Data in Indicator 3.

1. Analysis of ECO Progress Point data, FFY 2007 (2007-2008).
   a. Data at the Progress Point are obtained by Record reviews, Interviews, Observations and Tests/Assessments (RIOT). This included, but was not limited to, a review of Entry Point data, interviews, observations, behavior checklists, structured interactions, play-based assessments, adaptive and developmental scales, and curriculum-based, criterion-referenced and norm-referenced assessment instruments. The evaluation requirements established in IDEA and the *Iowa Administrative Rules for Early ACCESS* ensure that IFSP Teams use valid and reliable assessments and evaluation materials administered by trained and knowledgeable personnel. The Progress Point data were analyzed at the annual and exit IFSP meetings. The annual reviewed process results in formative data for individual children compared to chronological age expectations.

      Assessment instruments commonly used by IFSP Teams included, but were not limited to, the Developmental Assessment of Young Children, Carolina Curriculum for Infants and Toddlers with Special Needs Assessment, Hawaii Early Learning Profile, Developmental Observation Checklist System and the Assessment, Evaluation and Programming System for Infants and Children.

   b. Analysis of Progress Point data were conducted by triangulating data (record reviews, interviews, observations, tests/assessments as described above) across multiple investigators, the IFSP Team members. The IFSP Team was responsible for gathering and analyzing data that were needed to determine children's progress in the three ECO areas, regardless of the areas addressed on a child's IFSP. Data from IFSP Results and early childhood outcomes, documented directly on IFSPs, were immediately used in ongoing program development for each child.

2. Determination of ECO Progress Point data.
   a. Determination of progress at the Progress Point was based on the results of triangulation of data and the completion of the ECO Summary form.
   b. The ECO Summary form for comparison to peers was a seven-point rating scale that summarized each child's level of functioning in each of the three ECO areas in relation to same-aged peers. A rating of six or seven indicated the outcome was achieved at an age-appropriate level across a variety of settings and situations, and a rating of one through five indicated the child's functioning was below age-appropriate skills expected of a child his or her age.
   c. The IFSP Team determined if a child had progressed or acquired new skills or behaviors in each of the three ECO areas and documented the child's improvements by responding to a "yes/no" question on the ECO Summary form.
   d. In addition, the IFSP Team documented on the ECO Summary form all of the methods used to determine the outcome rating and progress through Record reviews, Interviews, Observations and Tests/Assessments (RIOT), the sources of information and a summary of results for each of the ECO areas.
3. Documenting, entering, and reporting of ECO Progress Point status.
   a. Documenting ECO Progress Point data were completed by the IFSP Team completing the ECO Summary form and documenting results at the time of an IFSP meeting.
   b. Entering documented results from the ECO Summary form into Iowa's central database system for Early ACCESS (Information Management System-IMS) was completed by trained data entry personnel. IMS has established data parameters, and does not accept a rating other than what was determined on the ECO Summary's seven-point rating scale, the yes/no response for a child's progress, and the supporting evidence used to determine the outcome rating and progress.
   c. Reporting occurred on an annual basis for the Lead Agency and Regional Grantees, as well as IFSP Teams, who have ongoing access to results as documented on the ECO Summary form.
4. Use of ECO Progress Point data.

a. Data on ECO, documented directly on a child's IFSP on the ECO Summary form, were immediately used in ongoing program development for each child.

Technical Assistance for specified staff to support data collection, reporting and use. Beginning in FFY 2006 (2006–2007), the Lead Agency trained staff from the Regional Grantees and Signatory Agencies on the process for completing the revised ECO Summary form. The Regional Grantees and Signatory Agencies have continued in FFY 2007 (2007-2008) providing ongoing training and technical assistance for IFSP Teams to accurately document, enter and report each child's performance on the ECO Summary form. Additionally in FFY 2007 (2007-2008), Regional Grantees and Signatory Agencies were provided a document aligning the Early Childhood Outcomes with the Iowa Early Learning Standards. This document provided operational definitions as well as questions developed by the National ECO Center to guide discussions so IFSP Teams had an understanding of the skills and behaviors that were being addressed in each of the ECO areas.

The Lead Agency required all 10 Regional Grantee to report the training and support provided for IFSP Teams to effectively implement the ECO process in the Regional Part C Year-End Reports. In FFY 2007 (2007-2008), each of the ten Regional Grantees reported providing professional development and technical assistance regarding the procedures for gathering and reporting data on the Early Childhood Outcome Summary form, implementation of valid and reliable evaluation and assessment instruments and data entry procedures.

Monitoring procedures to ensure data accuracy. Monitoring procedures were revised during the FFY 2006 (2006-2007) to ensure that the data from the ECO Summary form were entered for infants and toddlers in Early ACCESS into Iowa's Information Management System (IMS). Each child has a unique child identifier that allowed tracking the ECO data for individual children. The database system provided the information needed to ensure the ECO data were collected and entered for each child. Regional Grantees and Signatory Agencies continued to implement monitoring procedures in FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

Information Management System for data entry, verification, maintenance and analysis. Iowa's central database system for Early ACCESS is the Information Management System (IMS). During the FFY 2006 (2006–2007), the universal data entry procedures for entering the data from the ECO Summary form were rewritten, and IMS revised the established data parameters to collect the data from the ECO Summary form. The system does not accept a rating other than what is determined on the ECO Summary form. Additionally, the Regional Grantee data entry personnel were retrained and ongoing follow-up support was provided by the Lead Agency. Regional Grantee personnel continued this implementation during FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

The Regional Grantee data entry personnel reviewed and entered the information from the ECO Summary form for each initial, annual and exit IFSP meeting into IMS; data checks occurred to ensure data accuracy. Subsequent to data entry in IMS, the system generated a verification report of incomplete or unusual data; the report was submitted to Regional Grantee data personnel. Data entry personnel corrected errors and, if necessary, provided follow-up with the designated IFSP contact person. The Lead Agency data personnel reviewed IMS data on an established schedule to review data accuracy, and Lead Agency personnel contacted IMS staff with corrections when needed.

Collection and Analysis of Progress Data. All infants and toddlers who met the following criteria were assessed using multiple sources of data which were summarized on the ECO Summary form: (1) Entered Early ACCESS services on an IFSP after June 30, 2006 and (2) Received Early ACCESS services for at least six months; and (3) Exited Early ACCESS services between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008. Early Childhood Outcomes were gathered upon entering Part C Early ACCESS, and at the annual IFSP meeting thereafter, and when the child exits Early ACCESS services (e.g. entering Part B or other community services).

The use of Investigator[2] (IFSP Team members) and Methodological[3] (e.g., RIOT) Triangulation is an accepted form of data analysis to control for bias and establish convergence of data among multiple methods and different sources of data (Denzin, 1970; Mathison, 1988; Patton, 2002; Creswell & Miller, 2000). The process used to determine child status and progress at Entry Point and Progress Point for Early Childhood Outcomes employs Investigator and Methodological Triangulation. The ECO Summary form documents the determination of the status and progress of children's functioning for each of the three ECO areas.

Iowa assures the technical adequacy of the data on which triangulation is based, as described in IDEA and the *Iowa Administrative Rules of Early ACCESS*. The assessment procedures, instruments and other evaluation materials were required to be validated for the specific purpose for which they were used, administered by trained and knowledgeable personnel, and technically sound and assess the relative contribution of cognitive and behavioral factors, in addition to physical or developmental factors [IAC120-41.49(1)b; 120-41.49(1)c; 120-41.49(1)d]. Also, the technical adequacy of measures and triangulation of data are reflected in the supporting document titled, *Iowa's Special Education Assessment Standards.* This document has provided the basis for extensive training and technical assistance by the Lead Agency to Regional Grantee and Signatory Agency personnel.

Iowa's process for assuring reliable and valid data is also captured through answers to five questions:

- Who will be included in the measurement? All infants and toddlers, who are determined eligible for Early ACCESS after June 30, 2006, received Early ACCESS services on an IFSP for at least six months and exited Early ACCESS services between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008.

- What assessment/measurement tool(s) will be used? Multiple methods of data using multiple sources, including but not limited to, record reviews, interviews, observations, performance monitoring data on IFSP outcomes, and ongoing child assessments were gathered to determine children's functioning compared to same-aged peers (Comparison to Peers) and acquisition of new skills and behaviors (Progress Data) in each of the three ECO areas. The commonly used assessment instruments used by IFSP Teams include, but are not limited to, the Developmental Assessment of Young Children, Carolina Curriculum for Infants and Toddlers with Special Needs Assessment, Hawaii Early Learning Profile, Developmental Observation Checklist System and the Assessment, Evaluation and Programming System for Infants and Children. The ECO Summary form is used to summarize the data from the multiple measures used by the IFSP Teams.

- Who will conduct the assessments? Qualified personnel in the Evaluation and Eligibility Determination process as described in IDEA 2004 and *Administrative Rules for Early ACCESS*. The IFSP Team, including parents, is involved in gathering information about children's functioning compared to same-aged peers and acquisition of new skills across a variety of settings and situations as a part of the ECO process.

- When will the measurement occur? Entry Point data for the Comparison to Peers are collected as part of the Initial IFSP; and Comparison to Peers and Progress data are collected as part of annual IFSP reviews until the child exits Early ACCESS services (e.g., transition to Part B or other community services).
- Who will report data to whom, in what form, and how often? IFSP Teams report data on the ECO Summary form annually to IMS. Using individual identification codes for each child, data on the ECO Summary forms are manually entered into the database by trained data entry personnel.

[2] Investigator Triangulation is the use of multiple, rather than a single, observer to come to an understanding of data (Denzin, 1970).
[3] Methodological Triangulation is the use of more than one method of obtaining data (Denzin, 1970). Traditionally, this has been interpreted to be the use of multiple methods as reviews of existing data, observations, interviews and tests/assessments.

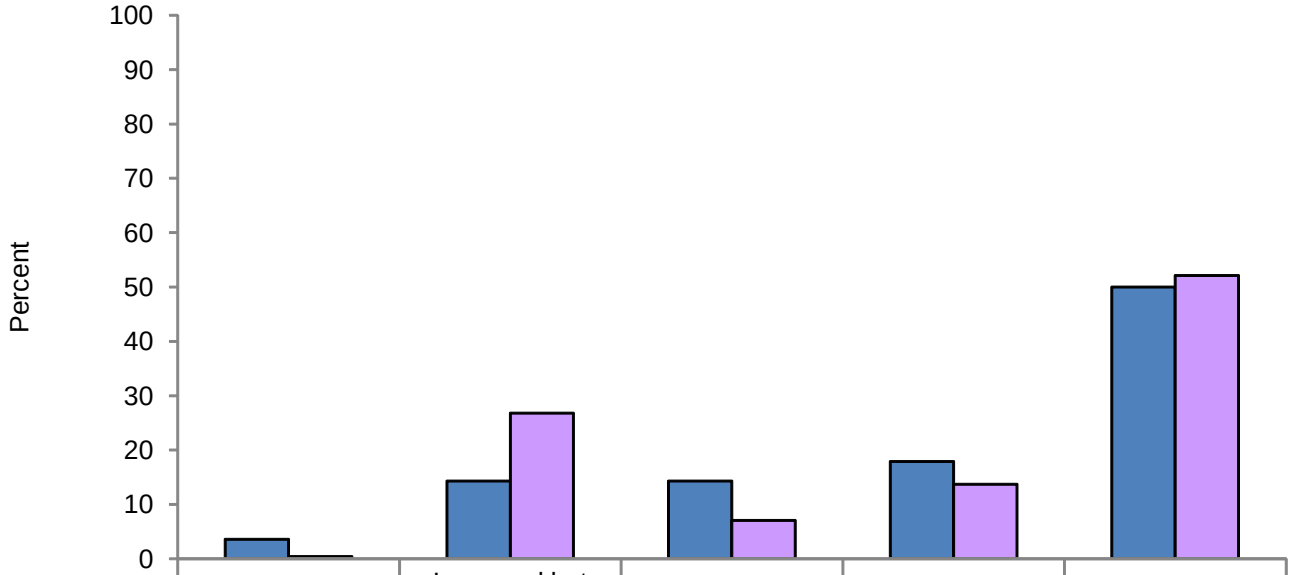
Baseline Data for FFY 2007 (2007-2008):

Data reported for the FFY 2007 (2007-2008) submission of the State Performance Plan (SPP) are progress data. Baseline data and targets will be reported in February 1, 2010 SPP, FFY 2008 (2008-2009).

Progress data for children exiting Early ACCESS services from FFY 2006 (2006-2007) through FFY 2007 (2007-2008) are presented in Figures C3.1, C3.2 and C3.3. Actual numbers used in the calculations are provided in tables C3.1, C3.2 and C3.3. The number of children sum to 100%, data are consistent with the measurement, and no explanation of difference or variance is required. Iowa's criteria for defining "comparable to same-aged peers" is a child who has been rated as a 6 or 7 on the ECO Summary form.

Figure C3.1 illustrates the percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who demonstrate improved (A) positive social-emotional skills across the measurement's reporting categories a through e. Table C3.1 provides the actual numbers used in calculation.

Figure C3.1. Percent of Infants and Toddlers with IFSPs Who Demonstrated Improved (A) Positive Social-Emotional Skills (Including Social Relationships).



	Did Not Improve	Improved but Not Comparable	Improved and Nearer to Peers	Improved and Comparable	Maintained
2006-2007	3.57	14.29	14.29	17.86	50.00
2007-2008	0.37	26.80	7.02	13.68	52.13

Source. Iowa Information Management System (IMS), FFY 2006 (2006-2007) - FFY 2007 (2007-2008).
Note. FFY 2006 (2006-2007) percentages based upon N = 28; FFY 2007 (2007-2008) N = 541.

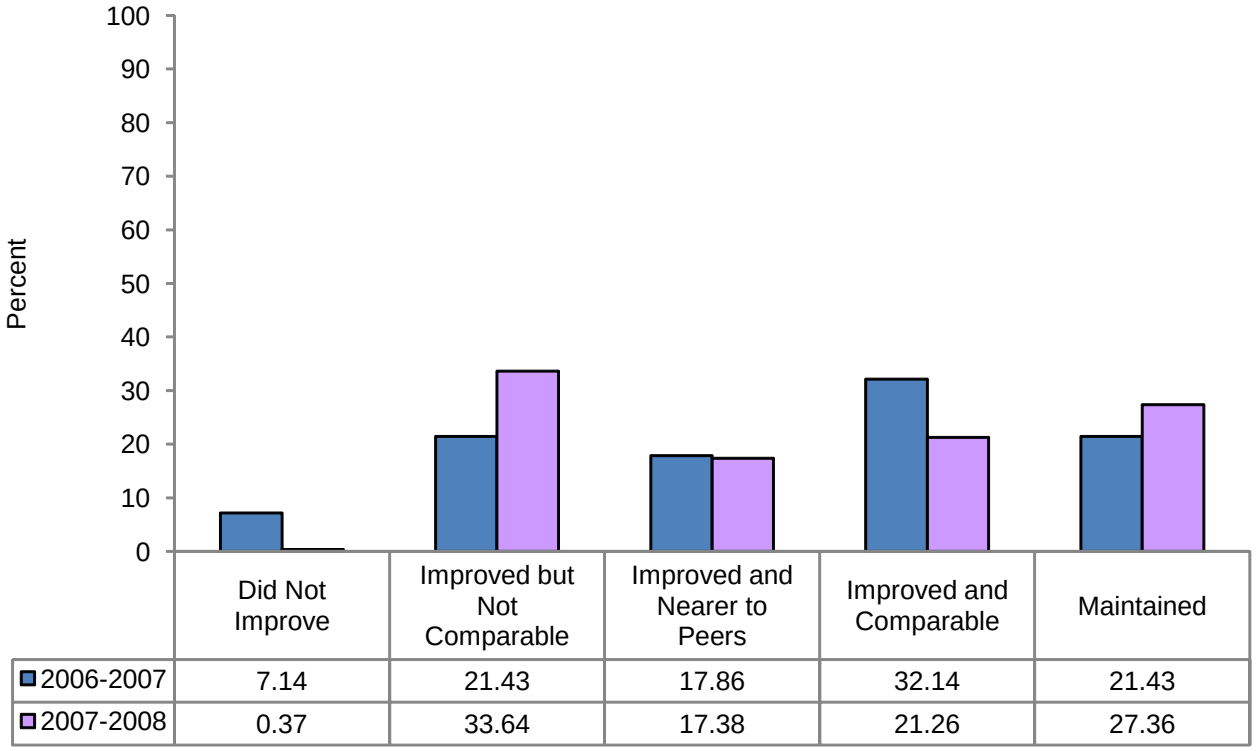
Table C3.1
Number and Percent (A) Positive Social-Emotional Skills.

Category	Did Not Improve	Improved but Not Comparable	Improved and Nearer to Peers	Improved and Comparable	Maintained	Total
N	2	145	38	74	282	541
Percent	0.37%	26.80%	7.02%	13.68%	52.13%	100%

Source. Iowa Information Management System (IMS), FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

Figure C3.2 illustrates the percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who demonstrate improved (B) acquisition and use of knowledge and skills across the measurement's reporting categories a through e. Table C3.2 provides the actual numbers used in calculation.

Figure C3.2. Percent of Infants and Toddlers with IFSPs Who Demonstrated Improved (B) Acquisition and Use of Knowledge and Skills (Including Early Language / Communication).



Source. Iowa Information Management System (IMS), FFY 2006 (2006-2007) - FFY 2007 (2007-2008).
Note. FFY 2006 (2006-2007) percentages based upon N = 28; FFY 2007 (2007-2008) N = 541.

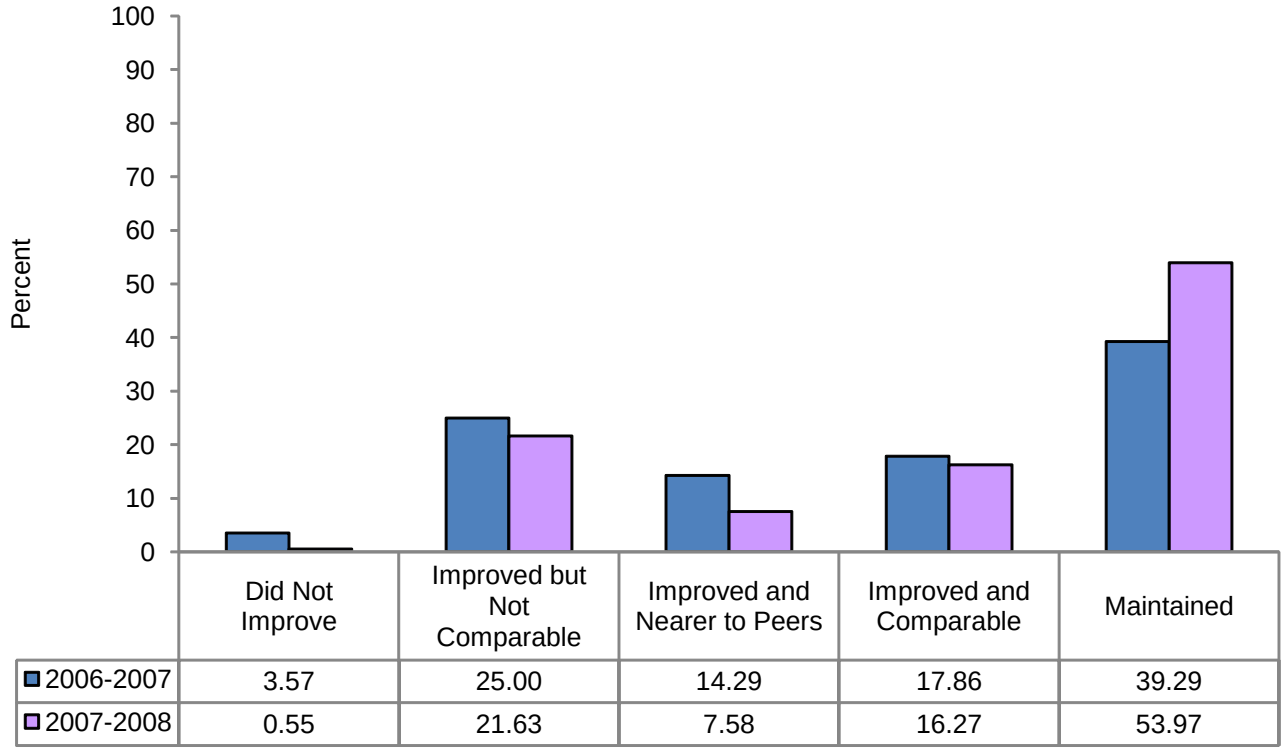
Table C3.2
Number and Percent (B) Acquisition and Use of Knowledge and Skills.

Category	Did Not Improve	Improved but Not Comparable	Improved and Nearer to Peers	Improved and Comparable	Maintained	Total
N	2	182	94	115	148	541
Percent	0.37%	33.64%	17.38%	21.26%	27.36%	100%

Source. Iowa Information Management System (IMS), FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

Figure C3.3 illustrates the percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who demonstrate improved (C) use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs across the measurement's reporting categories a through e. Table C3.3 provides the actual numbers used in calculation.

Figure C3.3. Percent of Infants and Toddlers With IFSPs Who Demonstrated Improved (C) Use of Appropriate Behaviors to Meet Their Needs.



Source. Iowa Information Management System (IMS), FFY 2006 (2006-2007) - FFY 2007 (2007-2008).
Note. FFY 2006 (2006-2007) percentages based upon N = 28; FFY 2007 (2007-2008) N = 541.

Table C3.3
Number and Percent (C) Use of Appropriate Behaviors.

Category	Did Not Improve	Improved but Not Comparable	Improved and Nearer to Peers	Improved and Comparable	Maintained	Total
N	3	117	41	88	292	541
Percent	0.55%	21.63%	7.58%	16.27%	53.97%	100%

Source. Iowa Information Management System (IMS), FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

Discussion of Baseline Data:

Baseline data, targets and improvement activities based on progress data will be reported in February 2010 Part C SPP.

As described in the Overview of Issue/Description of System or Process section, the Lead Agency collected data on each of the three ECO areas for infants and toddlers based on the revised measurement categories for every child whom entered Early ACCESS after June 30, 2006. The status of children entering Early ACCESS in FFY 2005 (2005–2006) was based on the previous three measurement categories. Children entering Early ACCESS during FFY 2005 (2005–2006) will not be

included in the ECO data because entry for these children did not provide sufficient information to determine their progress based on the five measurement categories established by OSEP in FFY 2006 (2006-2007).

Tables C3.1, C3.2 and C3.3 illustrated the status of infants and toddlers progress at the time they exited Early ACCESS services in FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and FFY 2007 (2007-2008). The actual number reported in FFY 2007 (2007-2008) was 541 infants and toddlers, compared to 28 children in FFY 2006 (2006-2007). The length of time the children that exited in FFY 2007 (2007-2008) participated in Early ACCESS services ranged from 6 months to 22 months. The age range for children in the report ranged from 7 months to 36 months of age.

For the 541 infants and toddlers included in the progress data reported for FFY 2007 (2007-2008), increases from FFY 2006 (2006-2007) were evident in the two measurements of A) Positive Social-Emotional Skills and B) Acquisition and Use of Knowledge and Skills in the percent of infants and toddlers who (e) maintained functioning at a level comparable to same-age peers and (b) improved functioning but not sufficient to move nearer to functioning comparable to same-age peers. In the measurement of C) Use of Appropriate Behaviors to Meet Their Needs, there was an increase in the percent of infants and toddlers who (e) maintained functioning at a level comparable to same-age peers.

However, the proportions of infants and toddlers in the reporting measurement categories were not considered representative of the children participating in Early ACCESS. While the number of children for whom data were available for FFY 2007 (2007-2008) increased from FFY 2006 (2006-2007), many infants and toddlers who entered in FFY 2006 (2006-2007) or FFY 2007 (2007-2008) are still participating in Early ACCESS and will have exit data in subsequent years. The earliest date the ECO data will be representative of the entire range of infants and toddlers served in Early ACCESS will be in FFY 2009 (2009-2010).

FFY	Measurable and Rigorous Target
2005 (2005-2006)	Not Applicable.
2006 (2006-2007)	Not Applicable.
2007 (2007-2008)	Not Applicable.
2008 (2008-2009)	Targets will be set based on baseline data.
2009 (2009-2010)	Progress will be assessed with respect to baseline data.
2010 (2010-2011)	Progress will be assessed with respect to baseline data.

Improvement Activities / Timelines / Resources:

Based on (1) the structure outlined in the Overview of State Performance Plan Development, (2) Iowa's System of Early ACCESS, (3) broad stakeholder input, and (4) current data, the improvement activities that were described throughout the Overview of Issue / Description of System or Process section have been implemented during FFY 2007 (2007-2008). The following implementation strategies will be completed through FFY 2010 (2010–2011), the projected duration of the SPP.

Improvement Activity C3: Early Childhood Outcomes	Resources	Timeline
1) **Research (Statewide systemic issues and specific AEA and district issues)**. a) Gather, report, and analyze ECO data with collaborative partners.	Early ACCESS Council, Early ACCESS Staff, Regional Grantees, Iowa Signatory Agencies Part C Funding	Annually
2) **Planning (Statewide systemic issues and specific AEA and district issues)**. a) Design research-based professional development to provide Regional Grantees with knowledge and skills to address procedures for evaluation, ongoing child assessment and implementation of research-based interventions for birth to three-year-old children. b) Design professional development to provide Regional Grantees with the capacity to collect, analyze and report data from the ECO Summary form.	Early ACCESS Staff, Regional Grantees, Signatory Agencies Part C Funding	2005-2011
3) **Professional Development and Implementation**. a) Provide professional development to Regional Grantees to assist Early ACCESS service coordinators and early intervention providers to implement procedures for evaluation, ongoing child assessment and implementation of research-based interventions for birth to three-year-old children. b) Provide professional development to Regional Grantees to increase capacity to collect, analyze and report data from the ECO Summary form.	Early ACCESS Staff, Regional Grantees, Signatory Agencies Part C Funding	2005-2011
4) **Evaluation and Progress Monitoring**. a) Gather, report and analyze the implementation of appropriate policies, procedures and practices in the areas of evaluation, assessment and ongoing performance monitoring of children's development with the Regional Grantees. b) Provide Technical Assistance to Regional Grantees in the interpretation of the outcomes being achieved and make meaningful decisions based on what was learned.	Early ACCESS Staff, Regional Grantees, Signatory Agencies Part C Funding	2006-2011

5) **Revision to Practice**. a) Provide Technical Assistance to Regional Grantees in data-driven, research-based child assessment practices to document early childhood outcomes. b) Provide professional development to Regional Grantees to implement data-driven, research-based child assessment practices to document early childhood outcomes.	Early ACCESS Staff, Regional Grantees, Signatory Agencies Part C Funding	2006-2011

Part C State Annual Performance Report (APR) for FFY 2007 (2007-2008)

Overview of the Annual Performance Report Development:

The Part C Annual Performance Report (APR) was developed by Lead Agency staff reviewing baseline data, targets and improvement activities and drafting a report for each indicator. Once draft indicator reports were written, stakeholder groups provided input regarding these three components and comments were compiled. Stakeholder groups included the State Interagency Coordinating Council (Iowa Council for Early ACCESS), Regional Grantee Administrators, Early ACCESS Leadership Group, and the Lead Agency Department of Education staff. See Overview of Annual Performance Report Development section for annual reporting to public.

Monitoring Priority: Early Intervention Services In Natural Environments

Indicator 4: Percent of families participating in Part C who report that early intervention services have helped the family:

A. Know their rights;
B. Effectively communicate their children's needs; and
C. Help their children develop and learn.

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(A) and 1442)

The following measurement for this indicator was a requirement of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) for both the six year State performance Plan and each Annual Performance Report.

Measurement:

A. Percent = [(# of respondent families participating in Part C who report that early intervention services have helped the family know their rights) divided by the (# of respondent families participating in Part C)] times 100.

B. Percent = [(# of respondent families participating in Part C who report that early intervention services have helped the family effectively communicate their children's needs) divided by the (# of respondent families participating in Part C)] times 100.

C. Percent = [(# of respondent families participating in Part C who report that early intervention services have helped the family help their children develop and learn) divided by the (# of respondent families participating in Part C)] times 100.

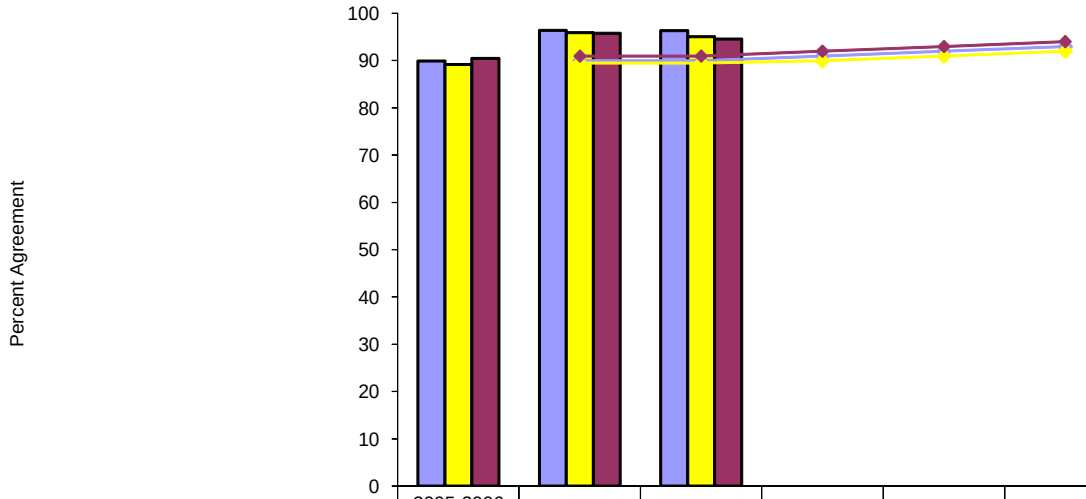
The provision of supports and services to help participating families is a performance indicator. Therefore, each state was allowed by OSEP to set their own targets from baseline data. The Lead Agency, with input from stakeholder groups, established measurable and rigorous targets for the six year State Performance Plan ranging from 89.2% to 94% for the percent of participating families reporting early intervention services helped them (A) know their rights; (B) effectively communicate their children's needs, and (C) help their children develop and learn..

FFY	Measurable and Rigorous Target
2007 **(2007-2008)**	A. 90% of families participating in Part C report that early intervention services have helped the family know their rights. B. 89.5% of families participating in Part C report that early intervention services have helped the family effectively communicate their children's needs. C. 91% of families participating in Part C report that early intervention services have helped the family help their children develop and learn.

Actual Target Data for 2007 (2007-2008):

Figure C4.I illustrates the FFY 2005 (2005-2006) baseline data used to establish the six-year targets and FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and FFY 2007 (2007-2008) results from the Part C Family Survey.

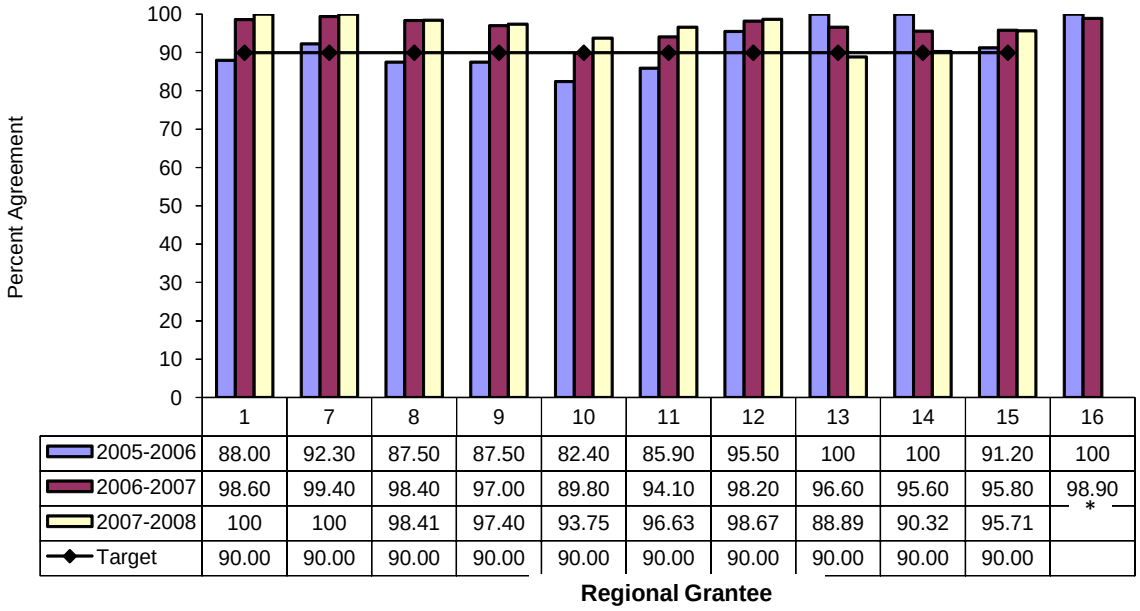
Figure C4.1. Percent of Families Reporting that Early Intervention Services Helped the Family



	2005-2006 Baseline	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
A. Know their rights	89.90	96.40	96.36			
B. Effectively communicate their child's needs	89.20	95.90	95.05			
C. Help their child develop and learn	90.50	95.80	94.61			
Target A		90.00	90.00	91.00	92.00	93.00
Target B		89.50	89.50	90.00	91.00	92.00
Target C		91.00	91.00	92.00	93.00	94.00

Source. North Central Regional Resource Center, Families' Ratings Report, January 2007, FFY 2005 (2005-2006). Iowa's System to Achieve Results (I-STAR), FFY 2006 (2006-2007) - FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

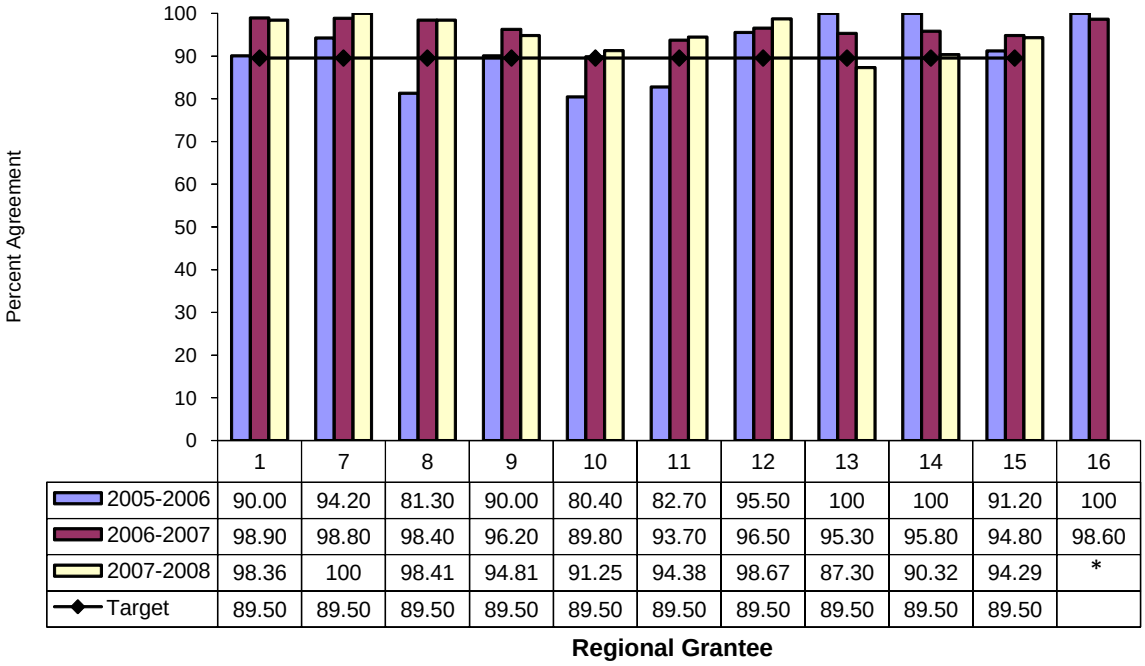
Figures C4.2, C4.3 and C4.4 provide the target data in the three sub-categories for each Regional Grantee. The figures include comparisons of baseline data for FFY 2005 (2005-2006) to the targets for FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and FFY 2007 (2007-2008).



	1	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
2005-2006	88.00	92.30	87.50	87.50	82.40	85.90	95.50	100	100	91.20	100
2006-2007	98.60	99.40	98.40	97.00	89.80	94.10	98.20	96.60	95.60	95.80	98.90
2007-2008	100	100	98.41	97.40	93.75	96.63	98.67	88.89	90.32	95.71	*
Target	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	

Source. North Central Regional Resource Center, Families' Ratings Report, January 2007, FFY 2005 (2005-2006). Iowa's System to Achieve Results (I-STAR), FFY 2006 (2006-2007) - FFY 2007 (2007-2008).
* *Note.* In FFY 2006 (2006-2007) Regional Grantees 15 and 16 merged. Data for both are reported as Regional Grantee 15.

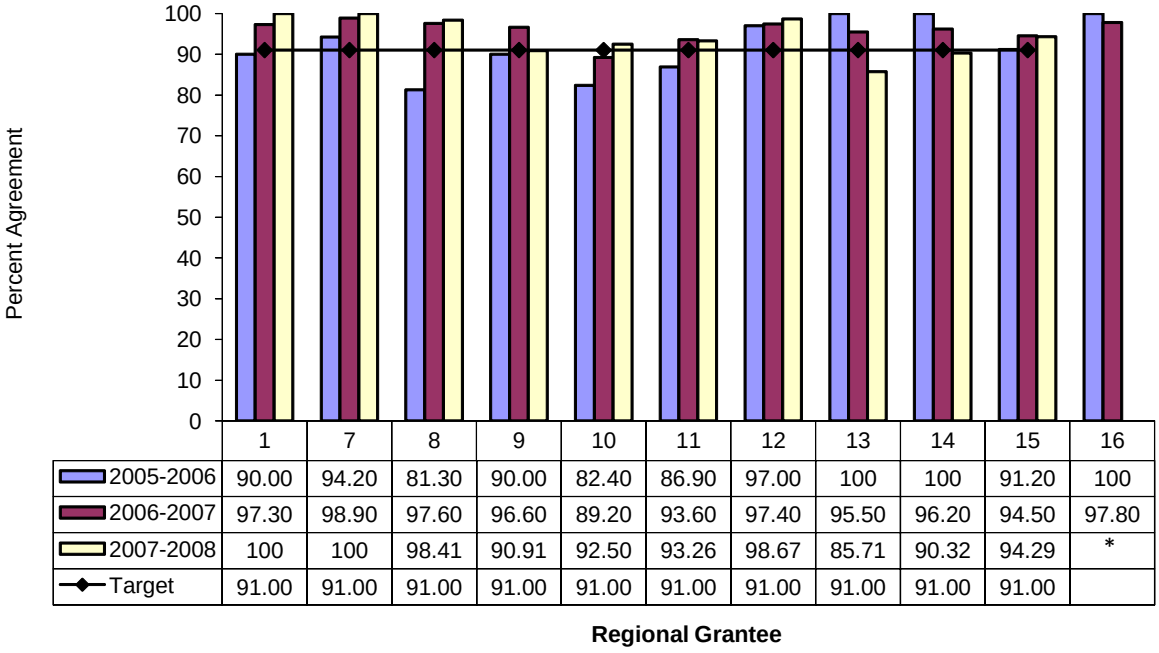
Figure C4.3. Percent of Regional Grantee Data for (B) Families Reporting that EIS Helped the Family Effectively Communicate their Child's Needs.



	1	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
2005-2006	90.00	94.20	81.30	90.00	80.40	82.70	95.50	100	100	91.20	100
2006-2007	98.90	98.80	98.40	96.20	89.80	93.70	96.50	95.30	95.80	94.80	98.60
2007-2008	98.36	100	98.41	94.81	91.25	94.38	98.67	87.30	90.32	94.29	*
Target	89.50	89.50	89.50	89.50	89.50	89.50	89.50	89.50	89.50	89.50	

Source. North Central Regional Resource Center, Families' Ratings Report, January 2007, FFY 2005 (2005-2006). Iowa's System to Achieve Results (I-STAR), FFY 2006 (2006-2007) - FFY 2007 (2007-2008).
* *Note.* In FFY 2006 (2006-2007) Regional Grantees 15 and 16 merged. Data for both are reported as Regional Grantee 15.

Figure C4.4. Percent of Regional Grantee Data for (C) Families Reporting that EIS Helped the Family Help their Child Develop and Learn.



	1	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
2005-2006	90.00	94.20	81.30	90.00	82.40	86.90	97.00	100	100	91.20	100
2006-2007	97.30	98.90	97.60	96.60	89.20	93.60	97.40	95.50	96.20	94.50	97.80
2007-2008	100	100	98.41	90.91	92.50	93.26	98.67	85.71	90.32	94.29	*
Target	91.00	91.00	91.00	91.00	91.00	91.00	91.00	91.00	91.00	91.00	

Source. North Central Regional Resource Center, Families' Ratings Report, January 2007, FFY 2005 (2005-2006). Iowa's System to Achieve Results (I-STAR), FFY 2006 (2006-2007) - FFY 2007 (2007-2008).
* *Note* . In FFY 2006 (2006-2007) Regional Grantees 15 and 16 merged. Data for both are reported as Regional Grantee 15.

Table C4.1 provides the FFY 2007 (2007-2008) data for the percentages and numbers used to determine the three sub-categories by Regional Grantee for calculation of Figures C4.1, C4.2, C4.3 and C4.4.

Table C4.1
Regional Grantee and State Data Comparisons of Family Survey Results for FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

Regional Grantee	(A) Know Their Rights	(B) Effectively Communicate Child's Needs	(C) Help Child Develop and Learn
1	100% 61/61	98.36% 60/61	100% 61/61
7	100% 78/78	100% 78/78	100% 78/78
8	98.41% 62/63	98.41% 62/63	98.41% 62/63
9	97.40% 75/77	94.81% 73/77	90.91% 70/77
10	93.75% 75/80	91.25% 73/80	92.50% 74/80
11	96.63% 86/89	94.38% 84/89	93.26% 83/89
12	98.67% 74/75	98.67% 74/75	98.67% 74/75
13	88.89% 56/63	87.30% 55/63	85.71% 54/63
14	90.32% 28/31	90.32% 28/31	90.32% 28/31
15	95.71% 67/70	94.29% 66/70	94.29% 66/70
State	96.36% 662/687	95.05% 653/687	94.61% 650/687

Source. Iowa's System to Achieve Results (I-STAR), FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

Discussion of Improvement Activities Completed and Explanation of Progress or Slippage that Occurred for FFY 2007 (2007-2008):

Iowa met all three targets for FFY 2007 (2007-2008) as indicated in Figure C4.1. In FFY 2007 (2007-2008) the percentage of families who reported that early intervention services have helped the family slightly decreased from the previous year: (A) Know their rights, -0.04; (B) Effectively communicate their children's needs, -0.85; and (C) Help their children develop and learn, -2.19. Despite the slippage, each category met the projected targets. Reliability of year three data was considered high due to the 100% return rate from all Regional Grantees.

Seven of the ten Regional Grantees showed progress in (A) Helping Families Know their Rights with three experiencing slippage. Five regions showed progress and five regions showed slippage in (B) Helping Families Communicate Their Child's Needs and (C) Helping Families Help Their Child Develop and Learn.

Several improvement activities were implemented to impact family outcomes. Improvement activities focused on Signatory Agency Service Coordination, Service Coordination Training Programs, and continued implementation of assessment best practices and family leadership in personnel preparation.

Verification of data. Iowa issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) in April 2005 for the development of a state monitoring and improvement data system designed to enhance Iowa's federal requirement for monitoring of IDEA 2004 Part B and C by focusing on efficient and effective use of technology to make data-based decisions to improve specialized programs and services for Iowa's children. The contract was awarded to Education Data Services and Information Systems, LLC (EDSIS). The contractor works collaboratively with assigned state staff and all impacted agencies in order to ensure the implementation of an effective IDEA Part B and C monitoring system. The data system, Iowa's System to Achieve Results (I-STAR), was used for Family Surveys in FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and FFY 2007 (2007-2008). Each Area Education Agency assigned a qualified and trained person to enter the family survey data into the I-STAR system.

(a) Sampling procedures. In FFY 2007 (2007-2008), Iowa used the FFY 2005 (2005-2006) approved sampling plan. Sample selection procedures were established so populations were representative of the Region and the State. Sample size was determined based on a margin of error for 95% confidence interval at not more than 0.10. In addition to the necessary sample size, excess was drawn for each AEA so that, if repeated attempts to contact selected parents were unsuccessful, alternate parents from the excess list were be contacted. To be able to reach a target number in a region, AEA personnel received a list of child identification numbers and parent contact information, in a randomized order of all children with IFSPs. If parents declined to fill out a survey or could not be contacted after three attempts, the next name was selected. A randomized, representative alternate list of families was built into the I-STAR system so that the alternate family replaced the original sample family if needed. This enabled Iowa to reach 100% participation.

The sample size for each AEA and number of children are summarized in Table C4.2. The sampling plan called for randomly selecting children and having their parents complete the survey questionnaire. The random samples were drawn from Iowa's electronic database, the Information Management System (IMS), the fall of 2007, for children birth to three with active IFSPs in Iowa.

Table C4.2.
Number of IFSPs and Sample Size by Regional Grantee: Ages Birth - Three Population.

Regional Grantee	Number of IFSPs	Sample Size
1	165	61
7	422	78
8	197	63
9	390	77
10	329	80
11	897	89
12	329	75
13	158	63
14	52	31
15	246	70
State Total	3185	687

Source. Iowa Management System (IMS), FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

Iowa collected 100% of the sample from each Regional Grantee supporting high confidence in the results. The Lead Agency considered all survey data accurate and collected in a timely manner.

Participants. Parents of children with IFSPs who were identified as part of the representative sample, February through June 2008, participated in the *Family Survey-Early Intervention* Survey. This sample was considered representative of the state.

Instrumentation. As indicated in the NCSEAM presentation at the OSEP Summer Institute (2005), the 47-item *Family Survey-Early Intervention* Survey is a valid and reliable measure that obtains birth to three data regarding families who reported that early intervention services helped the family know their rights, effectively communicate their children's needs and help their children develop and learn. Therefore, Iowa used the *Family Survey* (NCSEAM, 2005) to obtain birth to three family-centered services data. See survey at end of this indicator.

Procedures. The Service Coordinator provided the randomly selected family a copy of the survey at a home visit along with an Early ACCESS Regional Grantee addressed, stamped envelope. The family completed the survey after the Service Coordinator had left to assure confidentiality. After completing the survey, the family used the pre-addressed and stamped envelope to mail to the Regional Grantee. If the family did not complete a survey, the Regional Grantee designee followed up to complete the surveys by phone and at least three attempts were made. Regional Liaisons or designees then entered the completed survey data into I-STAR.

(b) Sample representation-The population proportions were analyzed by data consultants at the Iowa Department of Education. No concerns were identified in response rates, missing data or selection bias.

Table C4.3 represents race/ethnicity data the Lead Agency analyzed comparing Part C population percentages with representation data of the sample. Iowa is not reporting by local program because it would result in the disclosure of personally identifiable information about individual children.

Table C4.3
Percent Race/Ethnicity Survey Population Compared to Part C Population.

Race	Part C Population	Survey Population	Difference
Black	7.41%	5.82%	-1.59%
Hispanic	8.29%	8.73%	0.44%
Asian or Pacific Islander	1.48%	1.75%	0.27%
American Indian or Alaska Native	1.07%	1.02%	-0.05%
White	81.76%	82.68%	0.92%

Source. Iowa Information Management System (IMS), FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

The Lead Agency also analyzed age and gender data comparing Part C population percentages with representation data of the sample. The total survey N response was 687, with 19.80% under one-year-olds, 34.93% 1-to 2-year-olds, and 45.27% two and older. The difference between ages of the Part C population and the survey N response ranged between -0.82 to 0.58. Gender representation was 38.28% female and 61.72% male with a difference of -1.00 to +1.00.

In summary, the sample was technically proportionately representative to within 1.59% of the Iowa Part C population, by age, race, and gender. Iowa considered these data as representative of each of the individual Regional Grantees as well as the State population of children served in Early ACCESS.

Data verification - analysis methodology. The analysis was done by Iowa Department of Education data consultants, using the same analysis formula that was developed in FFY 2005 (2005-2006) by Thomas J. Delaney, Eds., Educational Specialist, North Central Regional Resource Center to set the percentages for each sub-category.

Analysis of data to identify concerns. The data were analyzed by the Lead Agency, Regional Grantee Administrators, Early ACCESS Leadership Group, and the State Interagency Council (Iowa Council for Early ACCESS). Stakeholder input noted a possible plateau of data and suggested need to review another year of results. There were no concerns expressed about the differences from FFY 2006 (2006-2007) performance, though slippage for the state and certain regions were noted. Overall, stakeholders affirmed that results of survey data substantially indicated that families received Early ACCESS supports and services that helped them.

After analyzing the data, one of the regions that experienced slippage of 7-9% from the prior year in all three sub-categories noted they did collect 100% of their sample, but mailed the family surveys rather than delivered to the parents by the service coordinator.

Analysis of policies, procedures and practices. The Lead Agency continued work to design a comprehensive Part C Finance System in order to maximize the coordination of resources to support families to help their children develop and learn. Appropriate service coordination caseloads are crucial to effective child and family outcomes. In the past few years, financial resources for service coordination and early intervention service providers have not kept pace with the long-term annual increase of children served (doubled in last eight years). State staff implemented a plan with the SICC to conduct interviews with key administrators/leaders of federal/state resources available in Iowa. This initiative was supported by the technical assistance of the OSEP-funded National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (NECTAC) who has guided the prior year's self-assessment and the ongoing strategic planning.

The Lead Agency with the support of its Signatory Agencies and SICC was successful in obtaining second year state appropriation of $1.7 million for Early ACCESS in the FFY08 Legislative Assembly. The allocation went to service coordination and direct services for underserved populations such as children referred by CAPTA (Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act); prematurity; medically complex; and drug affected.

Technical assistance. Iowa's Part C system, Early ACCESS, implements *Guiding Principles and Practices for Delivery of Family Centered Services* that were developed by the Lead Agency and the Iowa SCRIPT team (Supporting Changes and Reform in Inter-professional Pre-service Training). These principles and practices are the foundation for designing and delivering family centered services by all Early ACCESS partners. The eight principles that guide practice are:

1. The overriding purpose of providing family-centered help is family empowerment, which in turn benefits the well-being and development of the child.
2. Mutual trust, respect, honesty, and open communication characterize the family/provider relationship.
3. Families are active participants in all aspects of decision-making. They are the ultimate decision-makers in the amount, type of assistance, and the support they seek to use.
4. The ongoing work between families and providers is about identifying family concerns (priorities, hopes, needs, outcomes, or wishes), finding family strengths, and the services and supports that will provide necessary resources to meet those needs.
5. Efforts are made to build upon and use families' informal community support systems before relying solely on professional, formal services.
6. Providers across all disciplines collaborate with families to provide resources that best match what the family needs.
7. Support and resources need to be flexible, individualized and responsive to the changing needs of families.
8. Providers are cognizant and respectful of families' culture, beliefs, and attitudes as they plan and carry out all interventions.

Four primary strategies have been used by the Iowa Lead Agency to implement these principles and provide support to families through (1) The service coordinator's role; (2) The availability of resource personnel in each region; (3) Specific training and seminar opportunities; and (4) The personnel preparation development system.

The Family-Centered Principles are the philosophical foundation of the *Family-Centered Service Coordination Competency-Based Training Modules*. The Early ACCESS system of Iowa promotes these Family-Centered Principles in all aspects of training service professionals.

The Lead Agency continued to support a Comprehensive System of Professional Development. In FFY 2007 (2007-2008) Iowa's Family-Centered *Service Coordination Competency-Based Training Program,* which included five modules of competency based training. The service coordination training modules were based on Federal Statute and Regulations, research, and best practice and focused on one of the five identified competencies required to be an effective service coordinator. Modules 1 through 5 incorporated state policies, procedures and best practices regarding referrals, evaluation and assessment of infants and toddlers within 45-day timelines, IFSP provisions, coordinating community resources and infant and toddler development. Module I – *Federal, State and Local Rules, Regulations, and Procedures for the Early ACCESS System* specifically addressed parental rights.

The Signatory Agencies in the Early ACCESS system participated in the ongoing staff development activities for providers of early intervention services. Training was delivered statewide by interagency approved trainers. This training program was augmented by various in-services, workshops and conferences where providers learned about innovative practices. The

Family-Centered Service Coordination Competency Training Program was also made available on the Iowa Department of Education website. This enables infusion of family-centered practices into curricula across disciplines at community colleges, colleges and universities statewide.

This training program is implemented to assure that service coordinators have the core competencies needed to provide high quality services to families. These trainers attended intensive three-day Approved Trainer sessions for each module of training delivered. Trainers provided module trainings in FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and FFY 2007 (2007-2008) throughout the state. Eighty-eight percent (88%) of all 317 service coordinators in the state completed the requirements of the training program. Iowa anticipates that when data collection occurs in FFY 2008 (2008-2009), the other 22% will attend trainings as scheduled alternately throughout the regions during FFY 2008 (2008-2009) and all current service coordinators will meet service coordinator competency training requirements. The Lead Agency will continue to review results of parent survey data and monitoring results of compliance to study the effect of the competency based training modules.

During FFY 2007 (2007-2008) Child Health Specialty Clinics' (CHSC) Parent Consultants continued to serve as Early ACCESS service coordinators. All CHSC's Parent Consultants are parents of children with special health care needs. They have gained unique training experiences by working with nurse practitioners in CHSC's Birth to Five Clinics. CHSC Parent Consultants are well suited to work with families of children who have complex medical needs, were born prematurely, or have been exposed to substances. CHSC received a portion of the second year of state funding appropriated to the Early ACCESS system.

Iowa Department of Public Health Title V grantees have fully implemented Early ACCESS service coordination in their agencies for one year. A total of fifty-four individuals have been identified as Early ACCESS Service Coordinators within Title V agencies. The Early ACCESS Service Coordination Training modules were used to train newly identified staff. Staff from the Title V grantee agencies met competencies as required by the Early ACCESS system. A standard protocol is used for the delivery of service coordination and developmental monitoring of children birth to three years of age with a venous blood lead level of 20 µg/dL or above.

A diagnostic evaluation tool was chosen to be used by all Title V grantees. State early childhood professional development funding was secured to purchase tools, supplies and to develop training. The Title V/Child Health Service Coordinators have been trained on the delivery of this tool and integration to service delivery.

The Parent-Educator Connection (PEC), an Iowa Department of Education initiative, has worked with families, educators, and community partners to promote success for all children and youth with disabilities since 1984. PEC Coordinators support capacity building for families through activities such as personal contacts, trainings, Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) and Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meetings, supportive activities for transition from Part C to B, and the statewide PEC Conference.

In FFY 2007 (2007-2008) regions focused on implementation of The ABC (Asset-Based Context) Matrix after statewide training occurred in all regions in FFY 2006 (2006-2007). During FFY 2007 (2007-2008) trained trainers provided workshops in three regions to Service Coordinators and providers. The ABC Matrix is a functional assessment tool for parents and practitioners in early childhood and family support programs and used to identify existing and potential contextually meaningful and relevant learning opportunities and activities for children. This research-based tool is used to gather a rich array of information from families about a child's everyday life. That information is used to develop quality outcomes that lead to appropriate intervention planning and the provision of early Intervention services in the natural environment.

One of the most important ways that Iowa empowers families and enhances personnel preparation curriculum is through the Parents as Presenters two-day workshop. This was the

seventh year it was offered to a group of 27 selected parents. The workshop provided training for parents willing to share their experiences with students in college classes and community organizations for future early intervention professionals. Parents learned presentation techniques and experienced skills training to "Tell their Story". Six alumni returned to serve as faculty, further promoting parent leadership opportunities. In FFY 2007 (2007-2008) approximately 75 parents earned a state stipend each time they presented to pre-service and in-service classes and trainings.

Ongoing monitoring and enforcement as needed. In FFY 2007 (2007-2008) the Lead Agency monitored family outcomes in all Regional Grantees. No non-compliance findings were identified in FFY 2007 (2007-2008). All regions who did not meet the targets were required to analyze data for root causes and submit an improvement plan.

Each region submitted year end reports to document improvement activities that were conducted to reach and/or maintain state targets in all indicators. Regional Grantees conducted the following improvements activities during FFY 2007 (2007-2008):

- Maintained systems of technical assistance and ongoing support and clarified procedures and requirements through professional development offered at regular service coordinator meetings;
- Provided training and ongoing support regarding: how to share parent's rights; write family-driven measureable outcomes; discuss the purpose and goals of Early ACCESS with families; improve family assessment practices; and use family-centered practices;
- Improved data collection by working to get 100% completion of the Family Survey in their region;
- Provided Service Coordination Module trainings in collaboration with other regions and Signatory Agencies; and
- Reviewed results of regional Quality Service Review that examined family-centered practices and interagency efforts for children and families.

Revisions, with Justification, to Proposed Targets/Improvement Activities/Timelines/ Resources for 2008 (2008-2009):

There are no revisions to targets, improvement activities, timelines or resources for FFY 2008 (2008-2009). In order to maintain target performance, the Lead Agency will continue to implement activities outlined in the State Performance Plan.

Family Survey — Early Intervention — Page 1 of 2

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Use a Pencil to mark a box.
Use a check mark in the appropriate box.

This is a survey for families receiving *Early Intervention* services (Early ACCESS). Your responses are important. The state will use your responses to improve services and results for children and families. For each statement below, please select one choice: **Very Strongly Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree, Very Strongly Agree.** In responding to each statement, think about your experience with *Early Intervention* services over the past year. You may skip any statement that you feel does not apply to your family. Your responses will be kept confidential.

	Very Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Very Strongly Agree
FAMILY-CENTERED SERVICES						
1. I was offered help I needed to participate in the Early ACCESS Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) meeting(s). 1.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. I was asked whether I wanted help in dealing with stressful situations. 2.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. I was given choices concerning my family's services and supports. 3.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4. My family's daily routines were considered when planning for my child's services. 4.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
5. I have felt part of the team when meeting to discuss my child. 5.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
6. The services on our IFSP have been provided in a timely way. 6.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My family was given information about:						
7. Modifications of routines, activities, and the physical setting that would help my child. 7.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
8. The rights of parents regarding Early ACCESS services. 8.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
9. Community programs that are open to all children. 9.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
10. Organizations that offer support for parents of children with disabilities. 10.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
11. How to participate in different programs and services in the community. 11.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
12. Opportunities for my child to play with other children. 12.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
13. How to advocate for my child and my family. 13.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
14. Who to call if I am not satisfied with the services my child receives. 14.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Someone from Early ACCESS:						
15. Helped me get services like child care, transportation, respite care, or food stamps. 15.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
16. Helped me get in touch with other parents for help and support. 16.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
17. Asked whether the services my family was receiving were meeting our needs. 17.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
18. Went out into the community with me and my child to help us get involved in community activities and services. 18.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The Early ACCESS service provider(s) that work with my child:						
19. Are dependable. 19.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
20. Are easy for me to talk to about my child and my family. 20.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
21. Are good at working with my family. 21.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
22. My service coordinator is available to speak with me on a regular basis. 22.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
23. My service coordinator is knowledgeable and professional. 23.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
24. Written information I receive is written in an understandable way. 24.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
25. I was given information to help me prepare for my child's transition. 25.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Family Survey — Early Intervention — Page 2 of 2

Adapted from Version 2.0, National Center for Special Education Accountability Monitoring
http://www.monitoringcenter.lsuhsc.edu

Use a Pencil to mark a box.
Use a check mark in the appropriate box.

IMPACT OF EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES ON YOUR FAMILY

Over the past year, Early ACCESS services have helped me and my family:

		Very Strongly DISAGREE	Strongly DISAGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	Strongly AGREE	Very Strongly AGREE
26. Participate in typical activities for children and families in my community.	26.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
27. Know about services in the community.	27.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
28. Improve my family's quality of life.	28.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
29. Know where to go for support to meet my child's needs.	29.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
30. Know where to go for support to meet my family's needs.	30.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
31. Get the services that my child and family need.	31.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
32. Feel more confident in my skills as a parent.	32.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
33. Keep up friendships for my child and family.	33.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
34. Make changes in family routines that will benefit my child with special needs.	34.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
35. Be more effective in managing my child's behavior.	35.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
36. Do activities that are good for my child, even in times of stress.	36.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
37. Feel that I can get the services and supports that my child and family needs.	37.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
38. Understand how the Early ACCESS system works.	38.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
39. Be able to evaluate how much progress my child is making.	39.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
40. Feel that my child will be accepted and welcomed in the community.	40.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
41. Feel that my family will be accepted and welcomed in the community.	41.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
42. Communicate more effectively with the people who work with my child and family.	42.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
43. Understand the roles of the people who work with my child and family.	43.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
44. Know about my child's and family's rights concerning Early ACCESS services.	44.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
45. Do things with and for my child that are good for my child's development.	45.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
46. Understand my child's special needs.	46.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
47. Feel that my efforts are helping my child.	47.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please Return in the Enclosed Envelope

— Thank You for Your Participation —

November 2007

Part C State Annual Performance Report (APR) for FFY 2007 (2007-2008)

Overview of the Annual Performance Report Development:

The Part C Annual Performance Report (APR) was developed by Lead Agency staff reviewing baseline data, targets and improvement activities and drafting a report for each indicator. Once draft indicator reports were written, stakeholder groups provided input regarding these three components and comments were compiled. Stakeholder groups included the State Interagency Coordinating Council (Iowa Council for Early ACCESS), Regional Grantee Administrators, Early ACCESS Leadership Group, and the Lead Agency Department of Education staff. See Overview of Annual Performance Report Development section for annual reporting to public.

Monitoring Priority: Effective General Supervision Part C / Child Find

Indicator 5: Percent of infants and toddlers birth to 1 with IFSPs compared to:
A. Other States with similar eligibility definitions; and
B. National data.
(20 USC 1416(a)(3)(B) and 1442)

The following measurement for this indicator was a requirement of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) for both the six year State Performance Plan and each Annual Performance Report.

Measurement:
A. Percent = [(# of infants and toddlers birth to 1 with IFSPs) divided by the (population of infants and toddlers birth to 1)] times 100 compared to the same percent calculated for other States with similar (narrow, moderate or broad) eligibility definitions.
B. Percent = [(# of infants and toddlers birth to 1 with IFSPs) divided by the (population of infants and toddlers birth to 1)] times 100 compared to National data.

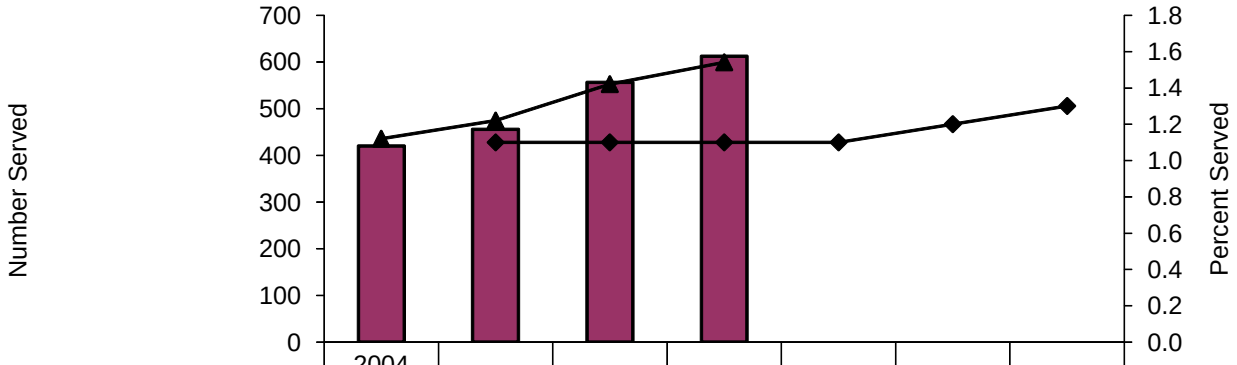
The provision of child find and early intervention services is a performance indicator. Therefore, each state was allowed by OSEP to set their own targets from baseline data. The Lead Agency, with input from stakeholder groups, established measurable and rigorous targets ranging from 1.1% to 1.3% for the percent of infants and toddlers from birth to 1 with IFSPs for the six year State Performance Plan.

FFY	Measurable and Rigorous Target
2007 (2007-2008)	Percent of infants and toddlers birth to 1 with IFSPs will maintain at 1.1%, and when compared to: A. Other States with similar eligibility definitions will maintain baseline year average data; and B. National data will maintain as .2% difference based on baseline year data.

Actual Target Data for FFY 2007 (2007-2008):

Figure C5.1 shows results for the number and percentage of infants birth to one served in Part C (Early ACCESS) during baseline FFY 2004 (2004-2005), FFY 2005 (2005-2006), FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and FFY 2007 (2007-2008) data. The percentages shown for FFY 2004 (2004-2005) were based on the December 1st Child Count, compared to Iowa birth minus death totals for the previous year. Data reported for the next years, FFY 2005 (2005-2006), FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and FFY 2007 (2007-2008) were based on the one-day child count that occurred on the last Friday of October and compared to the 2004 Census estimations.

Figure C5.1. Number and Percent of Infants Birth to One with IFSPs.

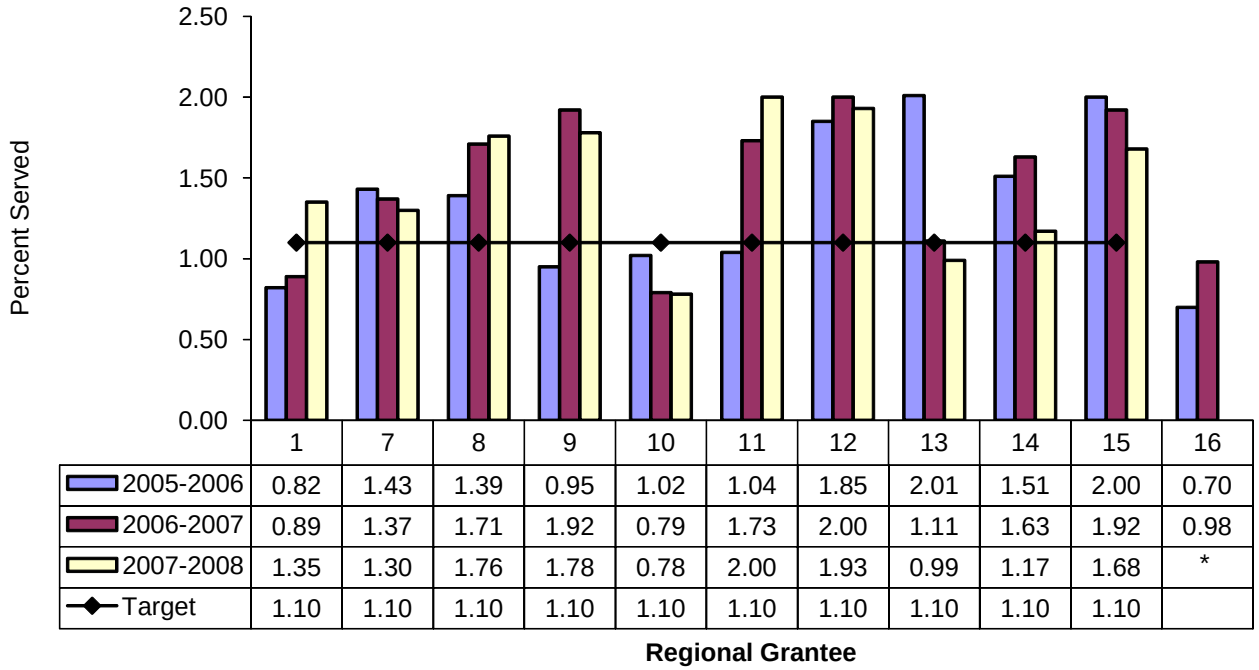


	2004 -2005 Baseline	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
Child Count Total	420	456	556	612			
Percent Served	1.12	1.22	1.42	1.54			
Target		1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.20	1.30

Source. 618 Tables and U.S. Census Data, FFY 2004 (2004-2005) - FFY 225 (2005-2006). U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, Data Analysis System (DANS), FFY 2006 (2006-2007) - FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

Figure C5.2 shows results for the 10 Regional Grantee's FFY 2005 (2005-2006), FFY 2006 (2006-2007), and FFY 2007 (2007-2008) data for the percent of infants served from birth to one year of age. Data reported for FFY 2005 (2005-2006), FFY 2006 (2006-2007), and FFY 2007 (2007-2008) were based on the one-day child count that occurred on the last Friday of October and were compared to resident population census estimates.

Figure C5.2. Percent of Infants Birth to One with IFSPs by Regional Grantees, Three-Year Trend.

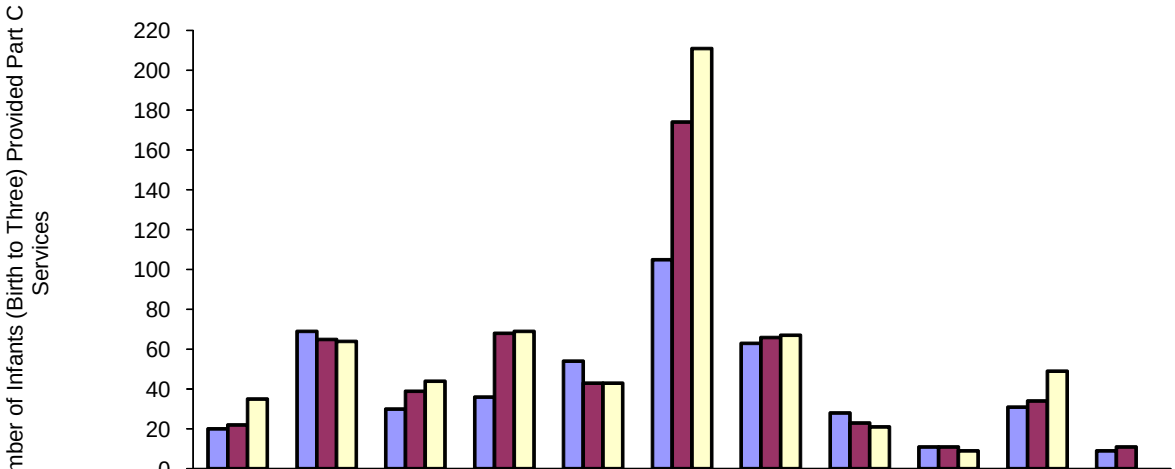


	1	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
2005-2006	0.82	1.43	1.39	0.95	1.02	1.04	1.85	2.01	1.51	2.00	0.70
2006-2007	0.89	1.37	1.71	1.92	0.79	1.73	2.00	1.11	1.63	1.92	0.98
2007-2008	1.35	1.30	1.76	1.78	0.78	2.00	1.93	0.99	1.17	1.68	*
Target	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	

Source. Iowa Information Management System (IMS), FFY 2005 (2005-2006) - FFY 2007 (2007-2008).
* *Note.* In FFY 2006 (2006-2007) Regional Grantees 15 and 16 merged. Data for both are reported as Regional Grantee 15.

Figure C5.3 provides results for the 10 Regional Grantee's baseline FFY 2004 (2004-2005), FFY 2005 (2005-2006), FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and FFY 2007 (2007-2008) data for the number of infants served from birth to one year of age.

Figure C5.3. Number of Infants Birth to One with IFSPs by Regional Grantees, Three-Year Trend.



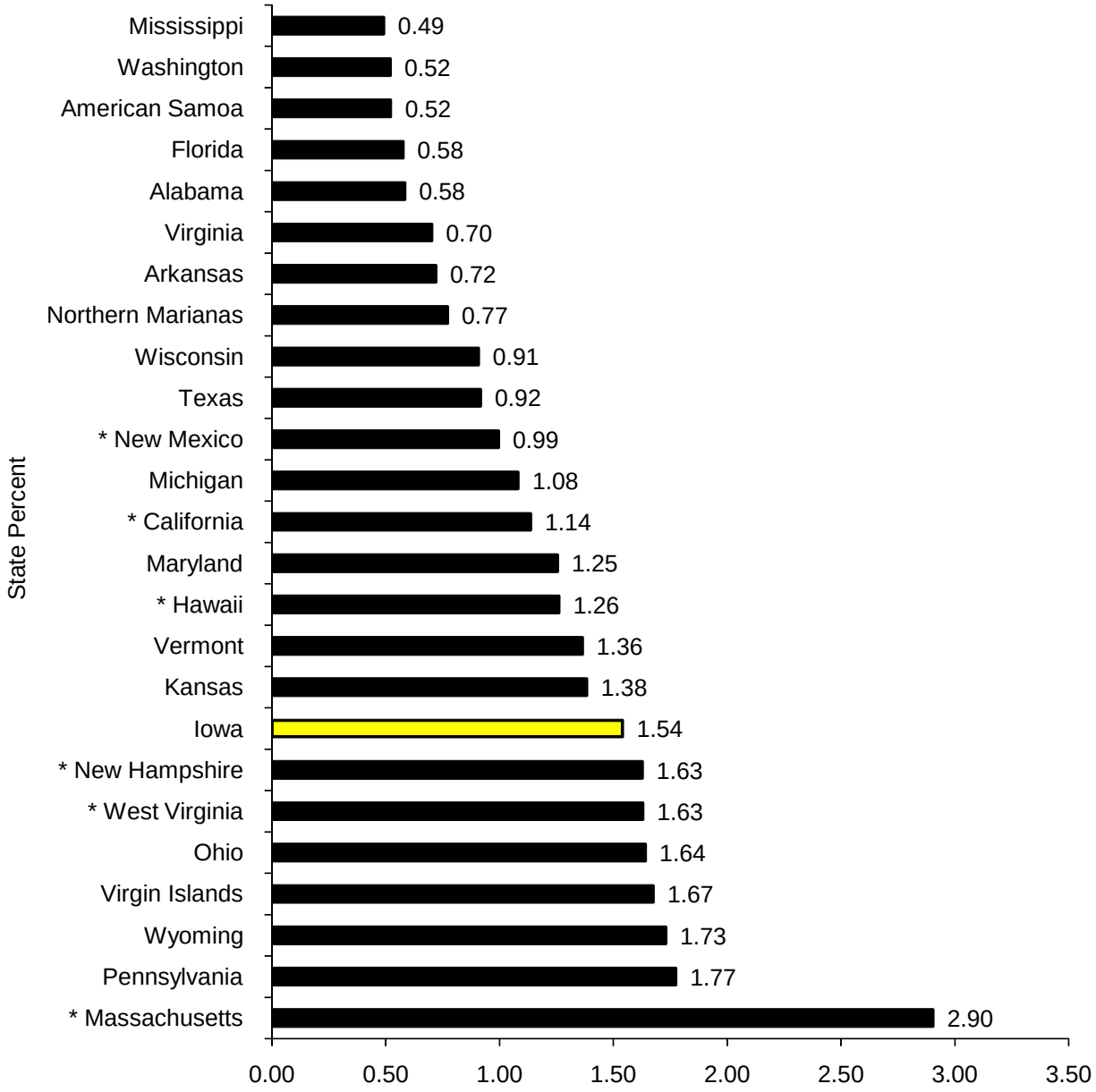
	1	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
2005-2006	20	69	30	36	54	105	63	28	11	31	9
2006-2007	22	65	39	68	43	174	66	23	11	34	11
2007-2008	35	64	44	69	43	211	67	21	9	49	*

Regional Grantee

Source. Iowa Information Management System (IMS), FFY 2005 (2005-2006) - FFY 2007 (2007-2008).
* *Note.* In FFY 2006 (2006-2007) Regional Grantees 15 and 16 merged. Data for both are reported as Regional Grantee 15.

(A) Comparison of Iowa to states with similar (broad) eligibility definitions. Figure C5.4 illustrates the Part C child count data for Iowa as compared to states with similar eligibility definitions for FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

Figure C5.4. Percent of Iowa Infants Birth to One Receiving Part C Services as Compared to Other States with Similar (Broad) Eligibility Definitions.



Source. U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, Data Analysis System (DANS), Table 8-8 "Report of Infants Under Age 1 (Excluding at Risk) Receiving Early Intervention Services in Accordance with Part C," 2007. Data updated as of July 15, 2008.
Note. * These states enroll infants and toddlers "at risk" in addition to those with developmental delays and conditions.

(B) Comparison of Iowa to National data. The National average for the population of birth to age one infants who received Part C (Early ACCESS) services was 1.05. The calculated difference between Iowa's percent served 1.54 and the national percent was 0.49. Iowa's target was to maintain a .2 percent difference. [Source. U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, Data Analysis System (DANS), OMB #1820-0557: "Infants and Toddlers Receiving Early Intervention Services in Accordance with Part C," 2007. Data updated as of July 15, 2008].

Discussion of Improvement Activities Completed and Explanation of Progress or Slippage that Occurred for FFY 2007 (2007-2008):

In FFY 2007 (2007-2008), Iowa exceeded the state target of 1.1% for the number and percentage of infants receiving early intervention services (see Figure C5.1). In addition, FFY 2007 (2007-2008) data results of 1.54% increased from year two FFY 2006 (2006-2007) data results of 1.42% children served. Eight of the 10 Regional Grantees met and/or exceeded the 1.1% target for year three of the State Performance Plan.

(A) In comparing Iowa to other states with similar broad eligibility categories (Federal category excluding at-risk), Iowa was comparable with the percent noted for other states (Figure C5.4). Of the 24 states/territories to which Iowa was compared, seven states/territories exceeded Iowa's percentage of infants birth to one with IFSPs and 17 states/territories served lower percentages. In comparing Iowa to the two other birth mandate states (Michigan and Maryland), results indicated Iowa exceeded both in the percent of birth to one population with IFSPs.

(B) In comparing Iowa to all fifty states and District of Columbia, Iowa's 0.49 difference with the national average exceeded the target of maintaining a .2 difference when compared to the national average. Iowa made a gain of 0.42 percent since the baseline year.

Several improvement activities were implemented to impact meeting the target for this indicator. The Lead Agency and Regional Grantees concentrated efforts on early identification with the help of interagency partners: Partnerships with Department of Human Services and judicial system regarding CAPTA (Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act) and the Department of Public Health regarding Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI); the participation in Service Coordination of Title V programs and Child Health Specialty Clinics, and distribution of public awareness materials; referral procedures; and data analysis of referral sources to the Early ACCESS system.

Verification of data. Iowa's IMS data system entails data checks at several steps:

Step 1. Regional Grantee IMS data entry personnel are trained to review IFSPs for completeness and consistency. If needed, IFSP team members are contacted to clarify or complete specific data or the IFSP is returned for corrections.

Step 2. When data are entered into IMS, several types of automatic data quality messages appear on the IMS screens:

- When a new eligible child is entered, the statewide historical database is queried to see if the child may have had an earlier IFSP. A list of near matches, based on name and birth date, is provided so that data entry personnel can check to see if the new child was previously served. This routine reduces the risk of the same child having two different IMS identification numbers.
- Some data fields are required before data entry can continue. For example, if the resident district code, gender, ethnicity, birth date, or serve status is left blank, a message appears with a prompt and no further data entry is allowed until a valid value is entered.

- For other data fields, a message appears but data entry may continue. For example, if the code is left blank, a message advises the operator but data entry continues. These messages are saved and written to a Verification Report (see below).

Step 3. A Verification Report sorted by Regional Grantee, lists data warnings and possible data errors that need to be checked. The report is run in real time so it is continuously updated and available to data entry personnel. Data entry personnel review the report for his or her respective Regional Grantee, cross checking against the IFSP and following up with Regional Grantee and local IFSP team members as needed. Types of warnings in the report include possible duplicate children, questionable age/IFSP age-eligibility combination, blank code, invalid program/service combination, and invalid full-part time code. The Verification Report is monitored by the Lead Agency to ensure that Regional Grantees regularly access and review potential errors during the two critical seasons for data entry (count/setting and exit).

Step 4. Lead Agency data personnel periodically review IMS, personnel, and discipline data and contact IMS and Regional Grantee staff with specific accuracy issues above and beyond the Verification Report to rectify any data abnormalities.

Data verification procedures for IMS are described in more depth in Indicator 14.

Analysis of data to identify concerns and effectiveness. Data on FFY 2004 (2004-2005) baseline, FFY 2005 (2005-2006), FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and FFY 2007 (2007-2008) child find data were analyzed by Lead Agency, Regional Grantee Leadership and State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) on children served in Early ACCESS. These analyses led Regional Grantees to implement activities to improve their child count. Examples of activities included: adding new partners to local coordinating councils, building relationship with referral sources who serve children with known conditions (foster care, NICU, etc.), reaching out to referral sources that may not be in their service area but serve children in their service area, and monthly self monitoring of referral data.

Analysis of the 10 Regional Grantee data indicated consistent increases for three of the10 regions for the percent of infants served (Figure C5.2). Eight regions met the target, two did not. Of the two regions that did not meet the target, one region's numbers stayed the same as FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and the other had slippage of two children. Regions that did not meet the target were required to analyze their data to identify root causes and submit an improvement plan.

Grantees had discussions in state sponsored meetings to share best practices. Examples of topics covered included: success in building relationships with direct service providers of community partners rather than agency administrative staff, NICU liaison position within two of Iowa's Level III birthing hospitals, and partnering with state funded four-year-old preschool programs to identify younger siblings.

Analysis of data to identify concerns and effectiveness-public awareness and referrals. Iowa's public awareness program relies on 12 categories of referral sources, public awareness materials, and a central point of entry for Early ACCESS and the 10 Regional Grantees. Table C5.1 provides the number and percent of referrals the Regional Grantees received from specific referral sources. Twelve categories were used to collect and analyze the data for each region. Regional Grantees tracked and reported referral source data: in FFY 2007 (2007-2008) the most common referral source statewide was Parent/Family (34.9%); by Regional Grantee it ranged from 16.8% to 51.7% of the referrals. Table C5.2 provides definitions of referral sources.

To better understand referral data, the data were clustered into four categories of referral sources, Figure C5.5. These clusters include Health (hospitals, high-risk follow-up programs,

Child Health Specialty Clinics, and public and private health agencies); Parent/Family; Education [local school districts (LEA) and Area Education Agencies/Regional Grantees (AEA)] and Family Support (Child Care, Department of Human Services (DHS), and Social Service Agencies). The combined health cluster accounted for 42% of referrals to the Early ACCESS system in FFY 2007 (2007-2008). These referral data reflected referrals for children birth to age three, data could not be disaggregated for birth to one.

Table C5.1.
Number and Percent of Referrals Received by Regional Grantee.

	Regional Grantees										
	1	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**	**Total**
Parent/Family	210	149	69	151	383	660	185	148	25	115	2095
	40.9%	16.8%	19.4%	28.3%	46.2%	42.6%	36.0%	51.7%	21.9%	27.8%	34.9%
Hospitals/HRIF	29	114	59	22	95	399	69	19	25	44	875
	5.6%	12.9%	16.6%	4.1%	11.5%	25.7%	13.4%	6.6%	21.9%	10.6%	14.6%
Physicians	103	198	51	63	69	164	58	26	7	39	778
	20.0%	22.3%	14.4%	11.8%	8.3%	10.6%	11.3%	9.1%	6.1%	9.4%	13.0%
Dept of Human	21	181	32	82	39	75	21	16	4	62	533
Services	4.1%	20.4%	9.0%	15.4%	4.7%	4.8%	4.1%	5.6%	3.5%	15.0%	8.9%
LEA/AEA	5	61	32	29	47	42	30	11	12	19	288
	1.0%	6.9%	9.0%	5.4%	5.7%	2.7%	5.8%	3.8%	10.5%	4.6%	4.8%
Public/Private	59	100	32	57	172	117	46	9	14	36	642
Health	11.5%	11.3%	9.0%	10.7%	20.7%	7.5%	8.9%	3.1%	12.3%	8.7%	10.7%
Family Support	47	52	28	47	8	36	13	46	16	20	313
Services	9.1%	5.9%	7.9%	8.8%	1.0%	2.3%	2.5%	16.1%	14.0%	4.8%	5.2%
Child Health	3	1	25	26	3	13	52	7	4	66	200
Specialty	0.6%	0.1%	7.0%	4.9%	0.4%	0.8%	10.1%	2.4%	3.5%	15.9%	3.3%
Child Care	10	20	7	8	13	17	9	3	3	3	93
	1.9%	2.3%	2.0%	1.5%	1.6%	1.1%	1.8%	1.0%	2.6%	0.7%	1.6%
Head Start (HS)	22	11	20	28	0	7	18	0	3	3	112
Early HS	4.3%	1.2%	5.6%	5.2%	0.0%	0.5%	3.5%	0.0%	2.6%	0.7%	1.9%
State EHDI	5	0	0	4	0	17	4	0	0	0	30
	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%	0.0%	1.1%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%
Out of State	0	0	0	6	0	4	9	0	0	2	21
Part C	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%	0.0%	0.3%	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.4%
Other	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	1	1	5	18
	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.9%	1.2%	0.3%
Total	514	887	355	534	829	1551	514	286	114	414	5998

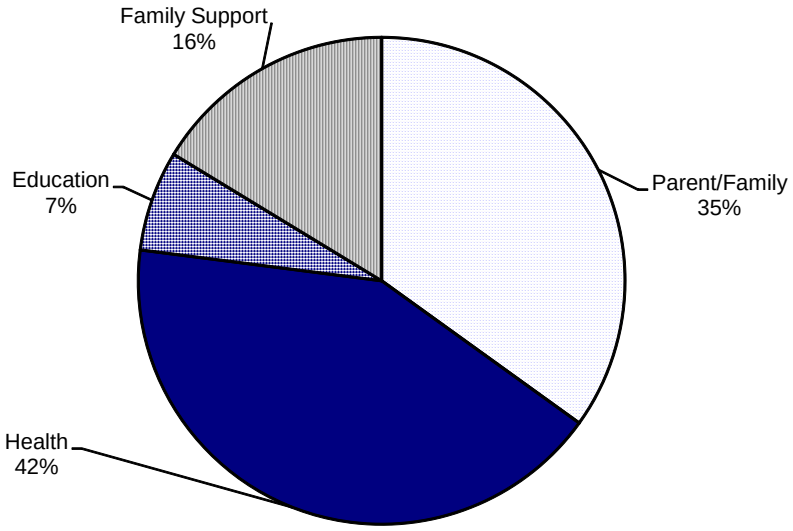
Source. Regional Grantee Year End Reports, FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

Table C5.2
Early ACCESS Referral Sources and Definitions.

Referral Source	Definition
1. Parent/family	Parent, family or other persons designated as a parent
2. Hospital/HRIF	Hospitals; hospital-based high-risk follow-up programs; Newborn Hearing Screening (NOT including referrals from Iowa Early Hearing Detection and Intervention office)
3. Physicians	Physicians (Pediatric, Family, Sub-specialty or General Practices)
4. Iowa Department of Human Services	Signatory Agency
5. LEA/AEA	Local or Area Education Agencies
6. Public/private health	Includes Title V agencies; Women, Infants and Children (WIC); County Public Health; home health agencies; etc.
7. Family Support Services	Family Support Services (e.g. ISU Extension; Lutheran Social Services; HOPES and HOPES-like; Healthy Families; Child Care Resource & Referral; Community Action Programs; programs supported by Community Empowerment Areas, etc.)
8. Child Health Specialty Clinics	Signatory Agency
9. Child Care	Providers of child care programs (child development homes and licensed child care centers)
10. Head Start and Early Head Start	Head Start programs and Early Head Start programs
11. State EHDI: Early Hearing Detection and Intervention	Iowa's newborn hearing screening and follow-up program
12. Out of State Part C	Families of children with IFSPs transferring from other states
13. Other	Other referral sources

Source. Regional Grantee Part C Application Instructions, FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

Figure C5.5 Source and Percent of Referrals Analyzed by Four Categories.



Source. Regional Grantee Year End Reports, FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

Public Awareness-Materials. The Lead Agency provided the majority of Early ACCESS public awareness materials that the Regional Grantees and Signatory Agencies distributed. Regional Grantees prepared an annual public awareness plan that outlined activities to engage parents, service providers, and the general public to learn about early intervention services.

The Lead Agency published two major public awareness materials for statewide distribution. Table C5.3 shows the number and type of public awareness materials distributed. The first material, a developmental wheel, remained most popular among community partners. They reported that families felt the wheel was a helpful resource for understanding child development. The wheel provides information about early childhood development and appropriate activities for specific age ranges. Distribution of the public awareness Developmental Wheels remained consistent with the previous year. The second material is a brochure with general information about the program and information about how to make a referral.

Table C5.3.
Number and Type of Public Awareness Materials Distributed.

	English Wheels	Spanish Wheels	English Brochures	Spanish Brochures
2004	39,000	11,250	11,000 *	6,400*
2005	41,600	8,000	55,000	18,000
2006	42,000	7,500	46,000	14,000
2007	45,000	7,000	45,000	11,000

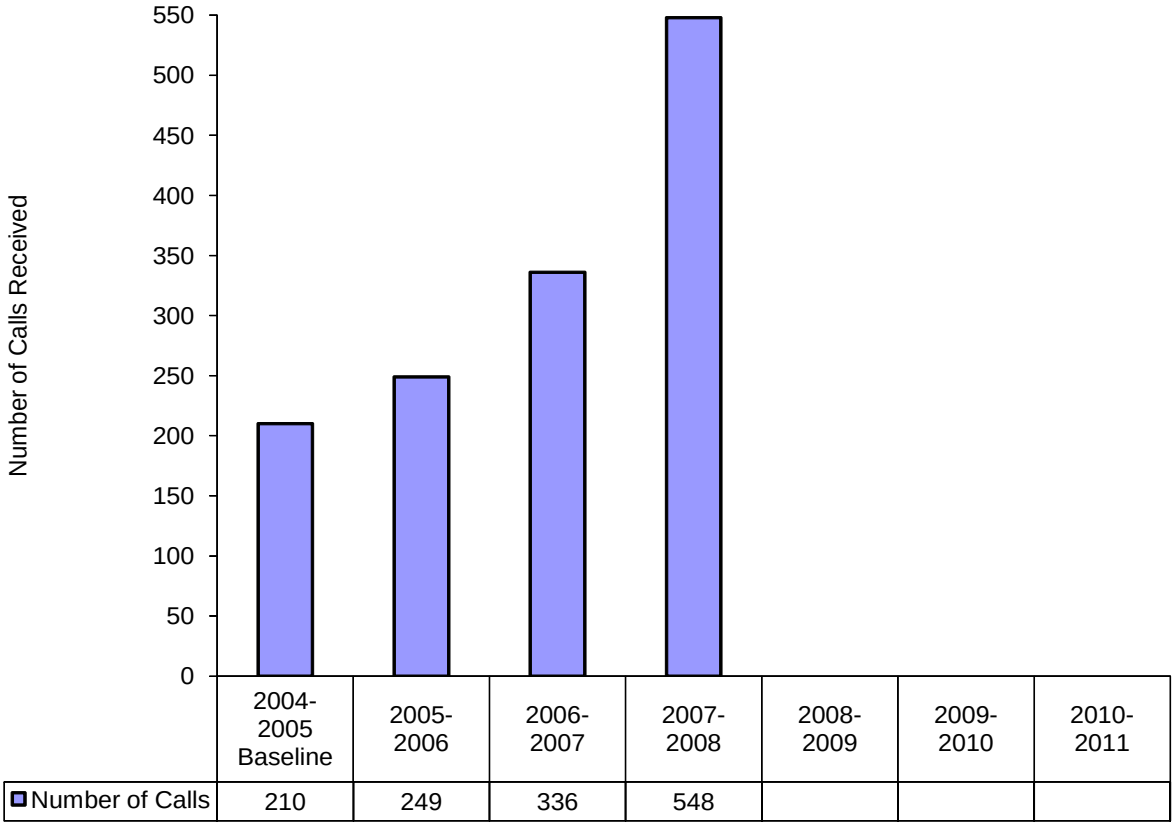
Source. Lead Agency, Iowa Department of Education, 2007.
Note. * Previous general information marketing material.

Public awareness-Statewide conference exhibits. In FFY 2007 (2007-2008), Early ACCESS state staff exhibited and distributed materials at seven statewide conferences. The primary audiences included: service providers, state agencies staff, and parents of children with disabilities. This activity provided the opportunity to engage a variety of early childhood constituents and service providers and answer their questions about Early ACCESS.

In addition to statewide conferences, Regional Grantees take an active role in many local training activities and public awareness events. They work closely with birthing and neonatal units to make Early ACCESS materials available to parents of newborns.

Public Awareness-Central Point of Contact and the Central Directory. Iowa COMPASS served as the central point of contact and the central directory for the Early ACCESS system until January 2008. In January, the central point of contact and the central directory responsibilities transitioned to Visiting Nurse Services (VNS) of Polk County through a competitive bid process. VNS created the service Early ACCESS Iowa and has dedicated staff specific to Early ACCESS. Iowa's central point of contact and central directory are accessed both by a toll free number and web site. All statewide and regional public relation materials include the toll free number. Callers are directly patched to the Regional Grantee who provides services in the region of the caller. Data on calls received by the central point of contact and the central directory are shown in Figure C5.6.

Figure C5.6. Number of Calls Received by Early ACCESS Central Point of Contact for Referral to Early ACCESS.



Source. Iowa COMPASS Quarterly Reports. FFY 2004 (2004-2005) - FFY 2007 (2007-2008) and Early ACCESS Iowa Quarterly Reports FFY 2007 (2007-2008).
Note. FFY 2007 (2007-2008) data reflect six month data from COMPASS and Early ACCESS Iowa.

The central point of contact and the central directory also process referrals from the Iowa Department of Human Services of children less than the age of three who were abused or neglected (CAPTA). The central point of contact mails information about Early ACCESS to the parents along with contact information. If the family was interested in having their child evaluated to determine eligibility for early intervention services, the central point of contact referred the

family to the local Regional Grantee. Calls regarding the Early ACCESS system increased significantly from the previous three years.

Analysis of policies, procedures and practices. In FFY 2005 (2005-2006), after analyzing baseline data, the Lead Agency established an in-house work group to research and analyze early identification and eligibility practices and requirements. The statewide work group studied service providers' challenges and brought in national experts in evaluation and assessment including the OSEP-funded National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (NECTAC) for two meetings.

Based on recommendations from the workgroup, the Lead Agency determined that regional procedures needed to be consistent across Regional Grantees and Signatory Agencies. During FFY 2006 (2006-2007), the statewide work group developed guidelines and presented the guidelines to Regional Grantee Administrators and Leadership Groups, Executive Committee of the ICC, and Signatory Agencies for feedback. The guidelines were revised each time to reflect input from the groups.

During FFY 2007 (2007-2008), Regional Grantee Administrators (Area Education Agencies) made a commitment to develop and adopt uniform procedures for implementation of IDEA, Parts C and B. Committees were formed with membership from each Regional Grantee/AEA and Lead Agency staff to write the portions of the *AEA IDEA Part B and C Procedures Manual.* The Early ACCESS Procedures Manual Committee studied the recommendations of the aforementioned statewide work group and incorporated the work into the Part C section of the manual in order to enhance systematic early identification of children potentially eligible for Early ACCESS. The Manual will be launched in FFY 2008 (2008-2009) and is intended to improve consistency in implementation of IDEA across the state and an opportunity to clarify issues that the field has identified.

The Lead Agency continued working to design a comprehensive Part C Finance System in order to maximize the coordination of resources. In the past few years, financial resources have not kept pace with the long-term annual increase of children served (doubled in last six years). A thorough assessment of the demographics of infant and toddlers in the state and nation was conducted, and data were analyzed by the State's Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC -Iowa Council for Early ACCESS). State staff developed a plan with the SICC to conduct interviews during FFY 2007 (2007-2008) and FFY 2008 (2008-2009) with key administrators/leaders of federal/state/local resources available in Iowa. This initiative is supported by the technical assistance of the OSEP-funded National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (NECTAC) who guided the self-assessment and strategic planning.

The Lead Agency with the support of its Signatory Agencies and SICC was successful in securing a second year of state appropriations for Early ACCESS. The 2008 appropriation renewed the dedicated state allocation to the Part C system. The allocation went to direct services, including nutrition services, to serve underserved populations such as children referred by CAPTA (Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act); prematurity; medically complex and drug affected.

Progress was made engaging Signatory Agencies regarding child find activities and provision of Service Coordination. The Department of Public Health fully implemented statewide guidelines that outlined Early ACCESS referral procedures for every child under the age of three with Venous blood lead level greater than or equal to 20 micrograms per deciliter. With the addition of the Department of Public Health and Child Health Specialty Clinic Service Coordinators for target populations of children with health related conditions (Prematurity, lead poisoned, medically fragile, drug exposed, etc.), referrals are expected to continue to increase. The Department of Public Health (Title V) and Child Health Specialty Clinics (CHSC) continued to contribute more resources (staff; time; funding; professional development and data collection) to implement interagency service coordination. This increases the Early ACCESS system's capacity to serve

more children and to align service coordination to meet the primary health needs of a child and family.

CHSC and Title V studied, piloted and identified a reliable and valid diagnostic assessment tool to use with these special populations. Training was provided to 57 service coordinators/early intervention providers during FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and 123 service coordinators/early intervention providers in FFY 2007 (2007-2008). In addition to the State sponsored trainings, the State partnered with one regional grantee to expand the training of the tool. This Regional Grantee offered a set of four additional trainings for all of their 85 service coordinators. The State contributed resources to this effort. This professional development activity promoted collaboration among all partners in the service provision of service coordination.

Technical assistance. In order to enhance the child count for Iowa's Part C system Early ACCESS, the state continued several initiatives during FFY 2007 (2007-2008). These efforts focused on activities to improve professional development with state partners in order to increase the number of appropriate referrals to the system. Six professional development activities were key to contributing to the state's increased child count.

Regional Grantees continue to partner with the Level III hospitals and High Risk Infant Follow-up programs in the state in order to facilitate increased referrals through the hospitals. The Region with two Level III hospitals and High Risk Infant Follow-up programs increased their birth to one numbers by 37 children and their birth to three numbers by 122 children. This region's birth to one percentage was increased from 1.73 to 2.0 and their overall percent increased from 2.62 to 2.89. It is anticipated that this region will have a model of best practice to share with other regions who have both Level III and Level II birthing hospitals in the upcoming year. Statewide conversations continue about how to facilitate improved communication and referrals into the Early ACCESS program. This activity will be the foundation for the development of program procedures for working with birthing hospitals across the state.

Collaboration with Iowa's Statewide Perinatal Care Program continued for FFY 2007 (2007-2008). This program provides professional training and consultation to regional and primary providers in order to reduce the mortality and morbidity of infants. State staff continues to work to integrate Early ACCESS into the program.

State staff continued to deliver training curriculum titled: *One of These Kids is Not Like the Others: Identifying Young Children with Developmental Delays and How to Talk to Their Parents About Your Concerns*. The training is targeted for early care, health, and education service providers. Training aims to help professionals identify children with developmental delays in order to make appropriate referrals to Early ACCESS, discuss with parents concerns about their child's development, and understand what referral sources can expect from the Part C system. Training has been delivered via state staff at several statewide early care, health and education conferences and in local community agencies. This activity was an opportunity for professional development related to making referrals to the system.

The Lead Agency continued to partner with the Iowa Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program to ensure that children who missed or did not pass their initial newborn hearing screening received follow-up. The EHDI staff identified children in need of audiological follow up through the EHDI data system and referred them to the Part C system. An early intervention provider was assigned to assist the family through the process, addressing any barriers to obtaining needed screenings and/or early intervention services.

1st Five Healthy Mental Development Initiative (formally the Assuring Better Child Health and Development) continued to expand in FFY 2007 (2007-2008). Iowa's 1st Five Healthy Mental Development Initiative focused on building supportive partnerships between primary care providers and public health agencies to deliver a seamless system of care for at-risk children and families. Iowa's 1st Five activities began in October 2006 with three implementation phases

spanning eight counties and now have coverage of twenty-one counties. 1st Five sites recruit primary care practices to enhance well-child exams that include assessing for: social and emotional development; autism; family risk factors such as caregiver depression and family stress. This enhanced surveillance takes place concurrently with assessing for the development of a child's motor, language, cognitive and adaptive skills. 1st Five sites help to link families with community resources and facilitate referrals to appropriate services including Part C services. This collaboration builds infrastructure for support in relationship to receiving increased appropriate referrals from community partners.

In FFY 2007 (2007-2008) 12% abused and neglected children received Early ACCESS services compared to five percent the previous year. The Lead Agency and the Iowa Department of Human Services continue to work to develop more effective ways to engage parents and encourage them to consent to early intervention services. The Iowa Department of Human Services has formed a task team to identify strategies to increase the number of child abuse victims served by Early ACCESS. This activity seeks to improve data collection and reporting for a target population of children.

Innovative systemic efforts to improve timely and coordinated services were continued by the Polk County Juvenile court who started the *Court Teams for Change* project. The goal was to improve outcomes for infants and toddlers who have been removed from the home due to parental drug use or domestic violence. This collaborative effort involved the juvenile court, *Zero To Three* (a national infant-toddler advocacy organization), the Iowa Department of Human Services, service providers and Early ACCESS.

The *Court Teams for Change* workgroup with Lead Agency and Regional Grantee involvement met monthly to improve the delivery of services to the child and family. The first year of the project focused on developing interagency protocols that could facilitate a rapid response to infants and toddlers who had been removed from the home. The second and third year FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and FFY 2007 (2007-2008) was devoted to implementing and refining the research-based model.

Analysis of trend data from Iowa Department of Human Services FY 2005 through FY 2008 was conducted at the end of 2008. Data revealed that, prior to the Court Teams for Change project, the number of children in the project's service area who were abused or neglected and on IFSPs was lower than other service areas of the state. After working collaboratively with Early ACCESS and juvenile courts the number of DHS clients served by Early ACCESS increased significantly (doubled).

During FFY 2007 (2007-2008), the *Court Teams for Change* project also focused on disseminating the model statewide and providing technical assistance to agencies that want to adopt the model. A related effort, *Court Improvement Project,* submitted a successful grant application to provide funding to five different sites in Iowa. Partners are developing supports through intensive community collaboration as well as instituting research-based and best practices to enhance practice and outcomes for parents and children.

In addition to the aforementioned professional development activities that were key to contributing to the state's increased child count, the Lead Agency is anticipating the potential for growth and quality improvement with the new vendor for the central point of contact and central directory. The new vendor has outlined plans for an aggressive outreach campaign that will target all public libraries in the state and metro areas that have public transportation systems.

Ongoing monitoring and enforcement as needed. In FFY 2007 (2007-2008) the Lead Agency monitored effective child find in all Regional Grantees. Trend data showed increases for three of the ten regions. While the state met the overall FFY 2007 (2006-2007) target, two regions did not. Regions that did not meet state targets were required to analyze their data for root causes and submit an improvement plan with research/evidence-based strategies. Improvement

plans identified the need to increase management time dedicated to Early ACCESS, and the need to analyze referral source data and the outcomes of referrals by referral source.

Of the two regions that did not meet the state target, one of them remained consistent with the previous year. One region did not meet the target or show improvement from the previous year. Because of the rural demographics of Iowa (small n size), the actual difference in number of children from FFY 2006 (2006-2007) to FFY 2007 (2007-2008) was less than three in the region that did not meet the target and experienced slippage.

Each region submitted year end reports to document improvement activities that were conducted to reach and/or maintain state targets in all indicators. Regional activities during FFY 2007 (2007-2008) included meeting with family support programs, healthcare providers, joining community boards and committees, hiring staff to develop community relationships, increasing authority and dedicated staff time to Part C, increasing the responses sent to referral sources when referrals have been made, and working with Signatory Agencies at the local level. Those who did not meet child find targets have identified referral sources to target outreach efforts which include: Parents, Physicians and Department of Human Services staff.

The Lead Agency also monitored the effectiveness of pervious years' focus monitoring site visits. A focused monitoring site visit was conducted in November of 2005 on the topic of early identification with one largely populated region. After baseline year one FFY 2004(2004-2005) their overall birth to one count increased from 0.92% to 1.04% in FFY 2005 (2005-2006); by the second year FFY 2006 (2006-2007) to 1.73% and by the third year FFY 2007 (2007-2008) to 2.0%, thus substantially exceeding the 1.1% state target.

Revisions, with Justification, to Proposed Targets/Improvement Activities/Timelines/ Resources for FFY 2008 (2008-2009):

There are no revisions of targets, improvement activities, timelines or resources for FFY 2008 (2008-2009). In order to maintain target performance, the Lead Agency will continue to implement activities outlined in the State Performance Plan.

Part C State Annual Performance Report (APR) for FFY 2007 (2007-2008)

Overview of the Annual Performance Report Development:

The Part C Annual Performance Report (APR) was developed by Lead Agency staff reviewing baseline data, targets and improvement activities and drafting a report for each indicator. Once draft indicator reports were written, stakeholder groups provided input regarding these three components and comments were compiled. Stakeholder groups included the State Interagency Coordinating Council (Iowa Council for Early ACCESS), the Early ACCESS Executive Committee, Regional Grantee Administrators, Early ACCESS Leadership Group, and the Lead Agency Department of Education staff. See Overview of Annual Performance Report Development section for annual reporting to public.

Monitoring Priority: Effective General Supervision Part C / Child Find

Indicator 6: Percent of infants and toddlers birth to 3 with IFSPs compared to:

A. Other States with similar eligibility definitions; and

B. National data.

(20 USC 1416(a)(3)(B) and 1442)

The following measurement for this indicator was a requirement of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) for both the six year State Performance Plan and each Annual Performance Report.

Measurement:

A. Percent = [(# of infants and toddlers birth to 3 with IFSPs) divided by the (population of infants and toddlers birth to 3)] times 100 compared to the same percent calculated for other States with similar (narrow, moderate or broad) eligibility definitions.

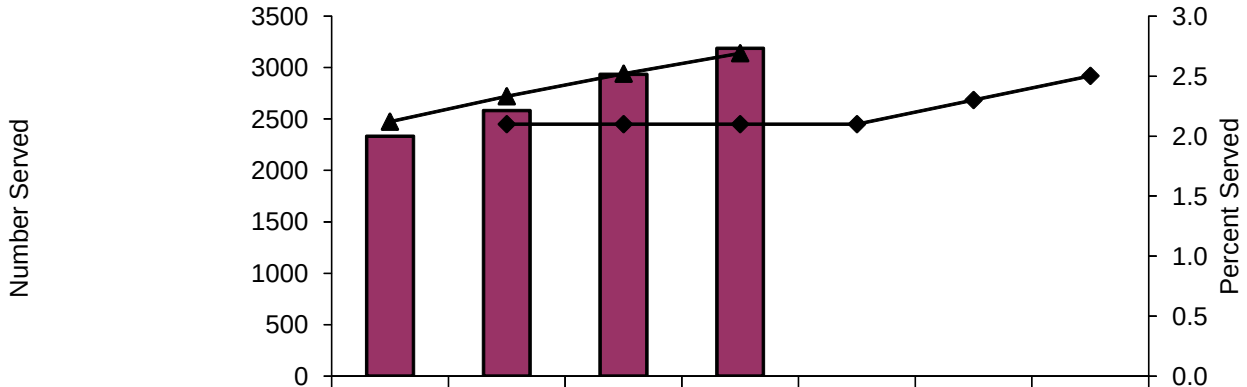
B. Percent = [(# of infants and toddlers birth to 3 with IFSPs) divided by the (population of infants and toddlers birth to 3)] times 100 compared to National data.

This indicator was considered a performance indicator by OSEP and therefore states were allowed to set their own measurable and rigorous targets. The Lead Agency, with input from stakeholder groups, set annual targets for the six year State Performance Plan to begin at 2.1% and end at a target of 2.5 for the percent of infants and toddlers birth to three with IFSPs.

FFY	Measurable and Rigorous Target
2007	Percent of infants and toddlers birth to 3 with IFSPs will maintain at 2.1%, and when compared to: A. Other States with similar eligibility definitions will maintain baseline year average data; and B. National data will maintain as –0.12% difference based on baseline year data.

Actual Target Data for FFY 2007 (2007-2008):
Figure C6.1 shows results for the number and percentage of infants and toddlers birth to three served in Part C (Early ACCESS) during baseline FFY 2004 (2004-2005), FFY 2005 (2005-2006), FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and FFY 2007 (2007-2008) data. The percentages shown for FFY 2004 (2004-2005) were based on the December 1st Child Count, compared to Iowa birth minus death totals for the previous year. Data reported for the next years, FFY 2005 (2005-2006), FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and FFY 2007 (2007-2008) were based on the one-day child count that occurred on the last Friday of October and were compared to the 2004 Census estimations.

Figure C6.1. Number and Percent of Infants and Toddlers Birth to Three With IFSPs.

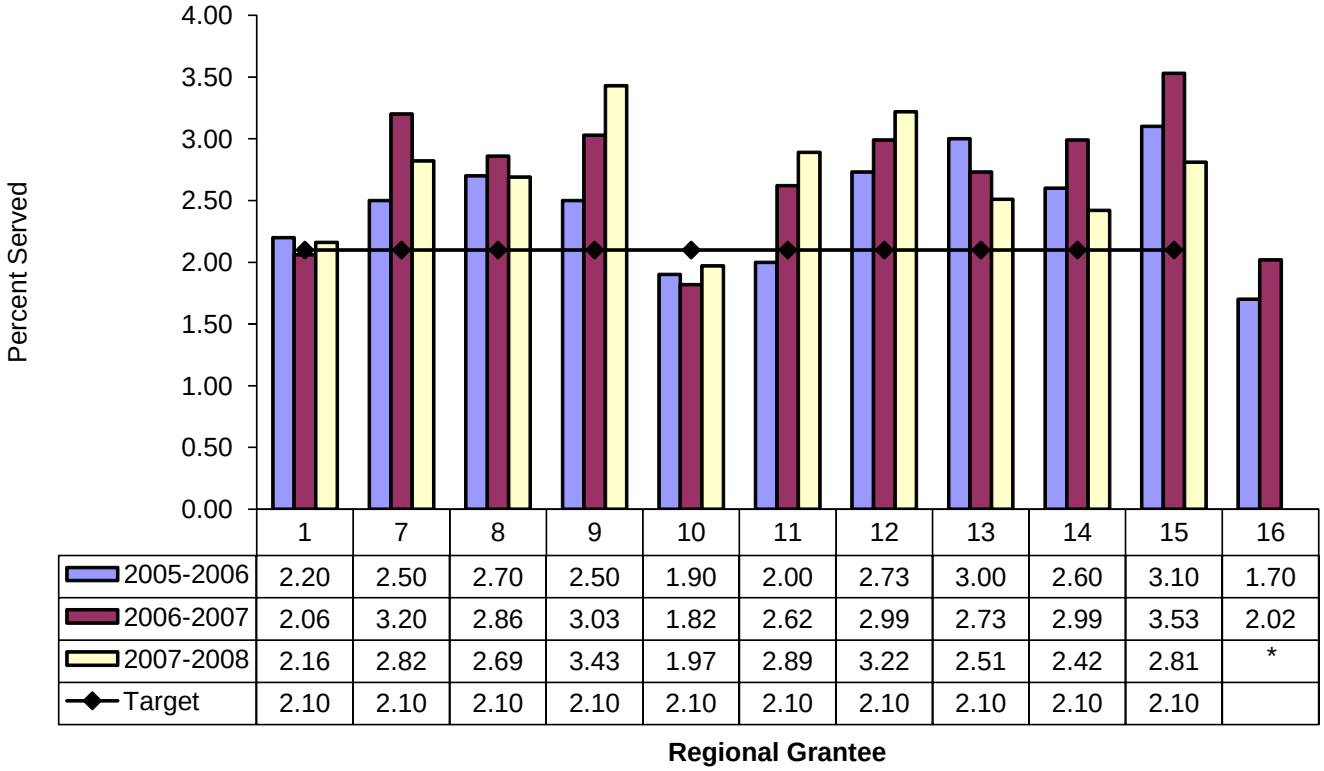


	2004-2005 Baseline	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
Child Count Total	2331	2581	2932	3185			
Percent Served	2.12	2.33	2.52	2.69			
Target		2.10	2.10	2.10	2.10	2.30	2.50

Source. 618 Tables, and Census Data FFY 2004 (2004-2005) - FFY 2005 (2005-2006). U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, Data Analysis System (DANS), FFY 2006 (2006-2007) - FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

Figure C6.2 shows results for the 10 Regional Grantees' baseline FFY 2004 (2004-2005), FFY 2005 (2005-2006), FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and FFY 2007 (2007-2008) data for the percent of infants served from birth to three years of age. The percentages shown for FFY 2004 (2004-2005) were based on the December 1st Child Count for each year, compared to the birth minus death totals for the previous years. The change from state birth minus death to U.S. Census estimates was analyzed and revealed insignificant differences. Data reported for the next years, FFY 2005 (2005-2006), FFY 2006 (2006-2007), and FFY 2007 (2007-2008) were based on the one-day child count that occurred on the last Friday of October and were compared to the 2004 Census estimations.

Figure C6.2. Percent of Infants and Toddlers Birth to Three with IFSPs by Regional Grantees, Three-Year Trend.

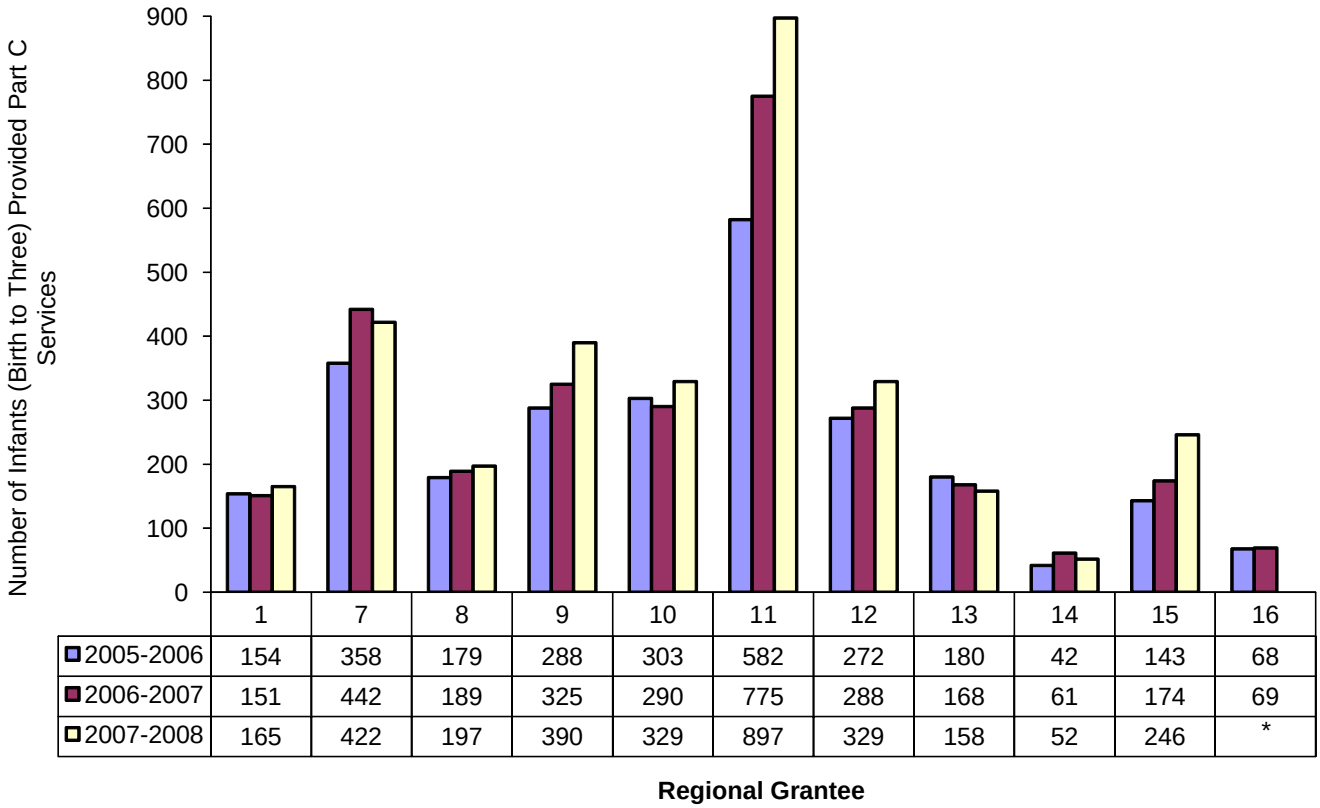


	1	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
2005-2006	2.20	2.50	2.70	2.50	1.90	2.00	2.73	3.00	2.60	3.10	1.70
2006-2007	2.06	3.20	2.86	3.03	1.82	2.62	2.99	2.73	2.99	3.53	2.02
2007-2008	2.16	2.82	2.69	3.43	1.97	2.89	3.22	2.51	2.42	2.81	*
Target	2.10	2.10	2.10	2.10	2.10	2.10	2.10	2.10	2.10	2.10	

Source . Iowa Information Management System (IMS), FFY 2005 (2005-2006) - FFY 2007 (2007-2008).
* *Note.* In FFY 2006 (2006-2007) Regional Grantees 15 and 16 merged. Data for both are reported as Regional Grantee 15.

Figure C6.3 provides results for the 10 Regional Grantees' baseline FFY 2004 (2004-2005) and FFY 2005 (2005-2006), FFY 2006 (2006-2007), and FFY 2007 (2007-2008) data for the number of infants served from birth to three years of age.

Figure C6.3. Number of Infants and Toddlers Birth to Age Three with IFSPs by Regional Grantees, Three-Year Trend.

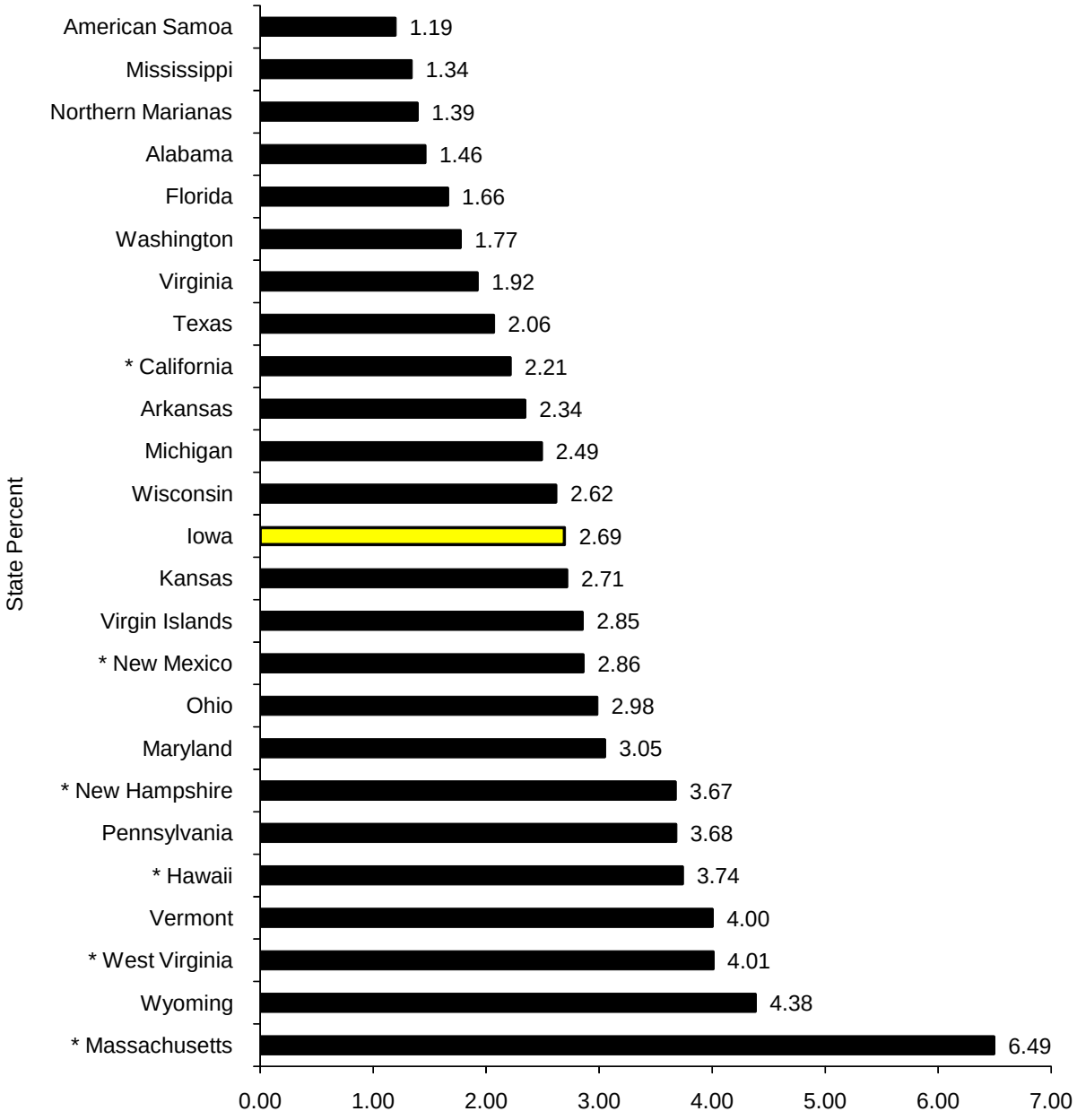


	1	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
2005-2006	154	358	179	288	303	582	272	180	42	143	68
2006-2007	151	442	189	325	290	775	288	168	61	174	69
2007-2008	165	422	197	390	329	897	329	158	52	246	*

Source. Iowa Information Management System (IMS). FFY 2005 (2005-2006) - FFY 2007 (2007-2008).
* *Note.* In FFY 2006 (2006-2007) Regional Grantees 15 and 16 merged. Data for both are reported as Regional Grantee 15.

(A) Comparison of Iowa to states with similar (broad) eligibility definitions. Figure C6.4 illustrates the Part C child count data for Iowa as compared to states with similar eligibility definitions for FFY 2007 (2007-2008)

Figure C6.4. Percent of Iowa Infants and Toddlers Birth to Three Receiving Part C Services as Compared to Other States with Similar (Broad) Eligibility Definitions.



Source. U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, Data Analysis System (DANS), Table 8-2 "Infants and Toddlers Ages Birth Through 2 (Excluding Children At-Risk) Receiving Early Intervention Services in Accordance with Part C," 2007. Data updated as of July 15, 2008.
Note. * These states enroll infants and toddlers "at risk" in addition to those with development delays and conditions.

(B) Comparison of Iowa to National data. The National percent for the population of birth to age three infants and toddlers who received Part C (Early ACCESS) services was 2.53. The calculated difference between Iowa's percent served 2.69 and the national percent was 0.16. Iowa's target was to maintain a -0.12 percent difference. [Source. U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, Data Analysis System (DANS), OMB #1820-0557: "Infants and Toddlers Receiving Early Intervention Services in Accordance with Part C," 2007. Data updated as of July 15, 2008.

Discussion of Improvement Activities Completed and Explanation of Progress or Slippage that Occurred for FFY 2007 (2007-2008):

In FFY 2007 (2007-2008) the number and percentage of infants receiving early intervention services consistently increased. Figure C6.1 shows the state target was met for FFY 2007 (2007-2008) for the percentage of children birth to age three receiving Early ACCESS services. Third year (2007-2008) data results of 2.69% exceeded both second year of 2.52% FFY 2006 (2006-2007), first year FFY 2005 (2005-2006) data results of 2.33% and the baseline of 2.12% in FFY 2004 (2004-2005). The target of 2.1% for FFY 2007 (2007-2008) was exceeded.

(A) In comparing Iowa to other state/territories with similar broad eligibility categories (Federal category excluding at-risk), Iowa was comparable with the percent noted for other states (Figure C6.4). Of the twenty five states/territories to which Iowa was compared, 12 states/ territories exceeded Iowa's percentage of infants and toddlers, birth to three with IFSPs; 12 states/territories were lower in their percentages. In comparing Iowa to the two other *birth mandate* states (Michigan and Maryland), results indicated Iowa was comparable in the percent of birth to three population with IFSPs.

(B) In comparing Iowa to all fifty states and District of Columbia, Iowa's 0.09 difference with the national average exceeded the target of maintaining a -0.12 difference when compared to the national average. Iowa made a gain of 0.21 percent since the baseline year.

Several improvement activities were implemented to impact meeting the target for this indicator. The Lead Agency and Regional Grantees concentrated efforts on early identification with the help of interagency partners: Partnerships with Department of Human Services and judicial system regarding CAPTA (Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act) and the Department of Public Health regarding Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI); the participation in Service Coordination of Title V programs and Child Health Specialty Clinics, and distribution of public awareness materials; referral procedures; and data analysis of referral sources to the Early ACCESS system.

Verification of data. Iowa's IMS data system entails data checks at several steps:

Step 1. Regional Grantee IMS data entry personnel are trained to review IFSPs for completeness and consistency. If needed, IFSP team members are contacted to clarify or complete specific data or the IFSP is returned for corrections.

Step 2. When data are entered into IMS, several types of automatic data quality messages appear on the IMS screens:

- When a new eligible child is entered, the statewide historical database is queried to see if the child may have had an earlier IFSP. A list of near matches, based on name and birth date, is provided so that data entry personnel can check to see if the new child was previously served. This routine reduces the risk of the same child having two different IMS identification numbers.
- Some data fields are required before data entry can continue. For example, if the resident district code, gender, ethnicity, birth date, or serve status is left blank, a

message appears with a prompt and no further data entry is allowed until a valid value is entered.

- For other data fields, a message appears but data entry may continue. For example, if the code is left blank, a message advises the operator but data entry continues. These messages are saved and written to a Verification Report (see below).

Step 3. A Verification Report sorted by Regional Grantee, lists data warnings and possible data errors that need to be checked. The report is run in real time so it is continuously updated and available to data entry personnel. Data entry personnel review the report for his or her respective Regional Grantee, cross checking against the IFSP and following up with Regional Grantee and local IFSP team members as needed. Types of warnings in the report include possible duplicate children, questionable age/IFSP age-eligibility combination, blank code, invalid program/service combination, and invalid full-part time code. The Verification Report is monitored by the Lead Agency to ensure that Regional Grantees regularly access and review potential errors during the two critical seasons for data entry (count/setting and exit).

Step 4. Lead Agency data personnel periodically review IMS, personnel, and discipline data and contact IMS and Regional Grantee staff with specific accuracy issues above and beyond the Verification Report to rectify any data abnormalities.

Data verification procedures for IMS are described in more depth in Indicator 14.

Analysis of data to identify concerns and effectiveness. Data on FFY 2004 (2004-2005) baseline, FFY 2005 (2005-2006), FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and FFY 2007 (2007-2008) child find were analyzed by Lead Agency, Regional Grantee Leadership and State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) on children served in Early ACCESS. These analyses led Regional Grantees to implement activities to improve their child count. Examples of activities included: adding new partners to local coordinating councils, building relationship with referral sources who serve children with known conditions (foster care, NICU, etc.), reaching out to referral sources that may not be in their service area but serve children in their service area, and monthly self monitoring of referral data.

Data showed five of the ten regions made progress in the percentage of children served with only one region performing under the state target. The one region that did not meet the target did make significant progress. The region that did not meet the target was required to analyze their data to identify root causes and submit an improvement plan.

Grantees had discussions in state sponsored meetings to share best practices. Examples of topics covered included: success in building relationships with direct service providers of community partners rather than agency administrative staff, NICU liaison position within two of Iowa's Level III birthing hospitals, and partnering with state funded four-year-old preschool programs to identify younger siblings.

Analysis of data to identify concerns and effectiveness-public awareness and referrals. Iowa's public awareness program relies on 12 categories of referral sources, public awareness materials, and a central point of entry for Early ACCESS and the 10 Regional Grantees. Table C6.1 provides the number and percent of referrals the Regional Grantees received from specific referral sources. Twelve categories were used to collect and analyze the data for each region. Regional Grantees tracked and reported referral source data; in FFY 2007 (2007-2008) the most common referral source statewide was Parent/Family (34.9%); by Regional Grantee it ranged from 16.8% to 51.7% of the referrals. Table C6.2 provides definitions of referral sources.

To better understand referral data, the data were clustered into four categories of referral sources, Figure C6.5. These clusters include Health (hospitals, high-risk follow-up programs, Child Health Specialty Clinics, and public and private health agencies); Parent/Family; Education [local school districts (LEA) and Area Education Agencies/Regional Grantees (AEA)] and Family Support (Child Care, Department of Human Services (DHS), and Social Service Agencies). The combined health cluster accounted for 42% of referrals to the Early ACCESS system in FFY 2007 (2007-2008). (These referral data reflected referrals for children birth to age three.)

Table C6.1.
Number and Percent of Referrals Received by Regional Grantee.

	Regional Grantees										
	1	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**	**Total**
Parent/Family	210	149	69	151	383	660	185	148	25	115	2095
	40.9%	16.8%	19.4%	28.3%	46.2%	42.6%	36.0%	51.7%	21.9%	27.8%	34.9%
Hospitals/HRIF	29	114	59	22	95	399	69	19	25	44	875
	5.6%	12.9%	16.6%	4.1%	11.5%	25.7%	13.4%	6.6%	21.9%	10.6%	14.6%
Physicians	103	198	51	63	69	164	58	26	7	39	778
	20.0%	22.3%	14.4%	11.8%	8.3%	10.6%	11.3%	9.1%	6.1%	9.4%	13.0%
Dept of Human	21	181	32	82	39	75	21	16	4	62	533
Services	4.1%	20.4%	9.0%	15.4%	4.7%	4.8%	4.1%	5.6%	3.5%	15.0%	8.9%
LEA/AEA	5	61	32	29	47	42	30	11	12	19	288
	1.0%	6.9%	9.0%	5.4%	5.7%	2.7%	5.8%	3.8%	10.5%	4.6%	4.8%
Public/Private	59	100	32	57	172	117	46	9	14	36	642
Health	11.5%	11.3%	9.0%	10.7%	20.7%	7.5%	8.9%	3.1%	12.3%	8.7%	10.7%
Family Support	47	52	28	47	8	36	13	46	16	20	313
Services	9.1%	5.9%	7.9%	8.8%	1.0%	2.3%	2.5%	16.1%	14.0%	4.8%	5.2%
Child Health	3	1	25	26	3	13	52	7	4	66	200
Specialty	0.6%	0.1%	7.0%	4.9%	0.4%	0.8%	10.1%	2.4%	3.5%	15.9%	3.3%
Child Care	10	20	7	8	13	17	9	3	3	3	93
	1.9%	2.3%	2.0%	1.5%	1.6%	1.1%	1.8%	1.0%	2.6%	0.7%	1.6%
Head Start (HS)	22	11	20	28	0	7	18	0	3	3	112
Early HS	4.3%	1.2%	5.6%	5.2%	0.0%	0.5%	3.5%	0.0%	2.6%	0.7%	1.9%
State EDHI	5	0	0	4	0	17	4	0	0	0	30
	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%	0.0%	1.1%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%
Out of State	0	0	0	6	0	4	9	0	0	2	21
Part C	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%	0.0%	0.3%	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.4%
Other	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	1	1	5	18
	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.9%	1.2%	0.3%
Total	514	887	355	534	829	1551	514	286	114	414	5998

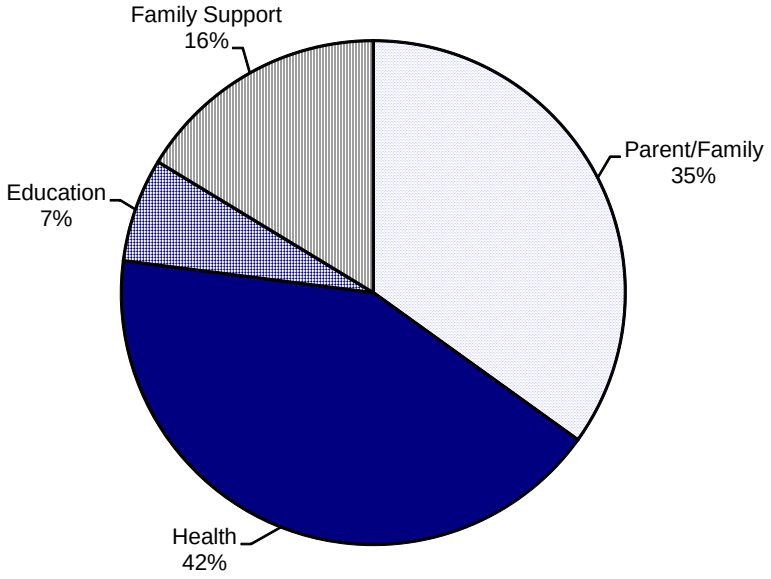
Source. Regional Grantee Year End Reports, FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

Table C6.2
Early ACCESS Referral Sources and Definitions.

Referral Source	Definition
1. Parent/family	Parent, family or other persons designated as a parent
2. Hospital/HRIF	Hospitals; hospital-based high-risk follow-up programs; Newborn Hearing Screening (NOT including referrals from Iowa Early Hearing Detection and Intervention office)
3. Physicians	Physicians (Pediatric, Family, Sub-specialty or General Practices)
4. Iowa Department of Human Services	Signatory Agency
5. LEA/AEA	Local or Area Education Agencies
6. Public/private health	Includes Title V agencies; Women, Infants and Children (WIC); County Public Health; home health agencies; etc.
7. Family Support Services	Family Support Services (e.g. ISU Extension; Lutheran Social Services; HOPES and HOPES-like; Healthy Families; Child Care Resource & Referral; Community Action Programs; programs supported by Community Empowerment Areas, etc.)
8. Child Health Specialty Clinics	Signatory Agency
9. Child Care	Providers of child care programs (child development homes and licensed child care centers)
10. Head Start and Early Head Start	Head Start programs and Early Head Start programs
11. State EHDI: Early Hearing Detection and Intervention	Iowa's newborn hearing screening and follow-up program
12. Out of State Part C	Families of children with IFSPs transferring from other states
13. Other	Other referral sources

Source. Regional Grantee Part C Application Instructions, FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

Figure C6.5 Source and Percent of Referrals Analyzed by Four Categories.



Source. Regional Grantee Year End Reports, FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

Public Awareness-Materials. The Lead Agency provided the majority of Early ACCESS public awareness materials that the Regional Grantees and Signatory Agencies distributed. Regional Grantees prepared an annual public awareness plan that outlined activities to engage parents, service providers, and the general public to learn about early intervention services.

The Lead Agency published two major public awareness materials for statewide distribution. Table C6.3 shows the number and type of public awareness materials distributed. The first material, a developmental wheel, remained most popular among community partners. They reported that families felt the wheel was a helpful resource for understanding child development. The wheel provides information about early childhood development and appropriate activities for specific age ranges. Distribution of the public awareness Developmental Wheels remained consistent with the previous year. The second material is a brochure with general information about the program and information about how to make a referral.

Table C6.3.
Number and Type of Public Awareness Materials Distributed.

	English Wheels	Spanish Wheels	English Brochures	Spanish Brochures
2004	39,000	11,250	11,000 *	6,400*
2005	41,600	8,000	55,000	18,000
2006	42,000	7,500	46,000	14,000
2007	45,000	7,000	45,000	11,000

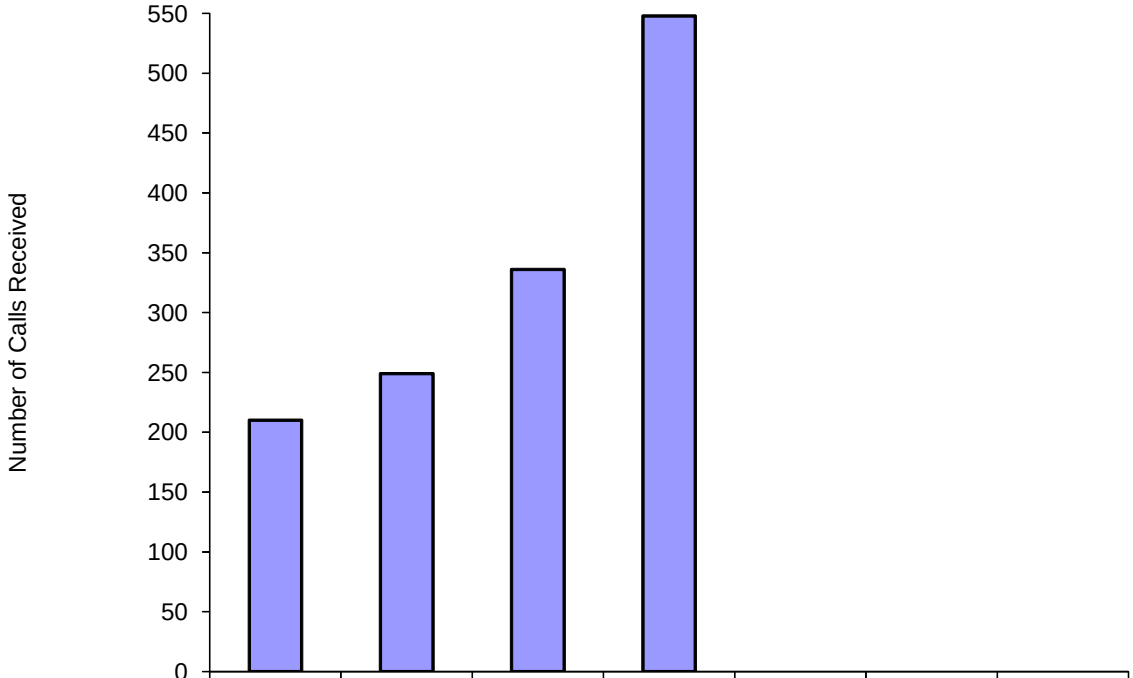
Source. Lead Agency, Iowa Department of Education, 2007.
Note. * Previous general information marketing material.

Public awareness-Statewide conference exhibits. In FFY 2007 (2007-2008), Early ACCESS state staff exhibited and distributed materials at seven statewide conferences. The primary audiences included: service providers, state agencies staff, and parents of children with disabilities. This activity provided the opportunity to engage a variety of early childhood constituents and service providers and answer their questions about Early ACCESS.

In addition to statewide conferences, Regional Grantees take an active role in many local training activities and public awareness events. They work closely with birthing and neonatal units to make Early ACCESS materials available to parents of newborns.

Public Awareness-Central Point of Contact and the Central Directory. Iowa COMPASS served as the central point of contact and the central directory for the Early ACCESS system until January 2008. In January, the central point of contact and the central directory responsibilities transitioned to Visiting Nurse Services (VNS) of Polk County through a competitive bid process. VNS created the service Early ACCESS Iowa and has dedicated staff specific to Early ACCESS. Iowa's central point of contact and central directory are accessed both by a toll free number and web site. All statewide and regional public relation materials include the toll free number. Callers are directly patched to the Regional Grantee who provides services in the region of the caller. Data on calls received by the central point of contact and the central directory are shown in Figure C6.6.

Figure C6.6. Number of Calls Received by Early ACCESS Central Point of Contact for Referral to Early ACCESS.



	2004-2005 Baseline	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
Number of Calls	210	249	336	548			

Source. Iowa COMPASS Quarterly Reports. FFY 2004 (2004-2005) - FFY 2007 (2007-2008) and Early ACCESS Iowa Quarterly Reports FFY 2007 (2007-2008).
Note. FFY 2007 (2007-2008) data reflect six month data from COMPASS and Early ACCESS Iowa.

The central point of contact and the central directory also process referrals from the Iowa Department of Human Services of children less than the age of three who were abused or neglected (CAPTA). The central point of contact mails information about Early ACCESS to the parents along with contact information. If the family was interested in having their child evaluated to determine eligibility for early intervention services, the central point of contact referred the

family to the local Regional Grantee. Calls regarding the Early ACCESS system increased significantly from the previous three years.

Analysis of policies, procedures and practices. In FFY 2005 (2005-2006), after analyzing baseline data, the Lead Agency established an in-house work group to research and analyze early identification and eligibility practices and requirements. The statewide work group studied service providers' challenges and brought in national experts in evaluation and assessment including the OSEP-funded National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (NECTAC) for two meetings.

Based on recommendations from the workgroup, the Lead Agency determined that regional procedures needed to be consistent across Regional Grantees and Signatory Agencies. During FFY 2006 (2006-2007), the statewide work group developed guidelines and presented the guidelines to Regional Grantee Administrators and Leadership Groups, Executive Committee of the ICC, and Signatory Agencies for feedback. The guidelines were revised each time to reflect input from the groups.

During FFY 2007 (2007-2008, Regional Grantees Administrators (Area Education Agencies) made a commitment to develop and adopt uniform procedures for implementation of IDEA, Parts C and B. Committees were formed with membership from each Regional Grantee/AEA and Lead Agency staff to write the portions of the *AEA IDEA Part B and C Procedures Manual.* The Early ACCESS Procedures Manual Committee studied the recommendations of the aforementioned statewide work group and incorporated the work into the Part C section of the manual in order to enhance systematic early identification of children potentially eligible for Early ACCESS. The Manual will be launched in FFY 2008 (2008-2009) and is intended to improve consistency in implementation of IDEA across the state and an opportunity to clarify issues that the field has identified.

The Lead Agency continued working to design a comprehensive Part C Finance System in order to maximize the coordination of resources. In the past few years, financial resources have not kept pace with the long-term annual increase of children served (doubled in last six years). A thorough assessment of the demographics of infant and toddlers in the state and nation was conducted, and data were analyzed by the State's Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC-Iowa Council for Early ACCESS). State staff developed a plan with the SICC to conduct interviews during FFY 2007 (2007-2008) and FFY 2008 (2008-2009) with key administrators/leaders of federal/state/local resources available in Iowa. This initiative is supported by the technical assistance of the OSEP-funded National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (NECTAC) who guided the self-assessment and strategic planning.

The Lead Agency with the support of its Signatory Agencies and SICC was successful in securing a second year of state appropriations for Early ACCESS. The 2008 appropriation renewed the dedicated state allocation to the Part C system. The allocation went to direct services, with a significant emphasis on nutrition services, to serve underserved populations such as children referred by CAPTA (Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act); prematurity; medically complex and drug affected.

Progress was made engaging Signatory Agencies regarding child find activities and provision of Service Coordination. The Department of Public Health fully implemented statewide guidelines in that outlined Early ACCESS referral procedures for every child under the age of three with Venous blood lead level greater than or equal to 20 micrograms per deciliter. With the addition of the Department of Public Health and Child Health Specialty Clinic Service Coordinators for target populations of children with health related conditions (Prematurity, lead poisoned, medically fragile, drug exposed, etc.), referrals are expected to continue to increase. The Department of Public Health (Title V) and Child Health Specialty Clinics (CHSC) continued to contribute more resources (staff; time; funding; professional development and data collection) to implement interagency service coordination. This increases the Early ACCESS system's capacity to serve

more children and to align service coordination to meet the primary health needs of a child and family.

CHSC and Title V studied, piloted and identified a reliable and valid diagnostic assessment tool to use with these special populations. The tool that was identified was the Developmental Assessment of young Children (DAYC). Training was provided to 57 service coordinators/early intervention providers during FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and 123 service coordinators/early intervention providers in FFY 2007 (2007-2008). In addition to the State sponsored trainings, the State partnered with one regional grantee to expand the training of the DAYC tool. This Regional Grantee offered a set of four additional trainings for all of their 85 service coordinators. The State contributed resources to this effort. This professional development activity promoted collaboration among all partners in the service provision of service coordination.

Technical assistance. In order to enhance the child count for Iowa's Part C system Early ACCESS, the state continued several initiatives during FFY 2007 (2007-2008). These efforts focused on activities to improve professional development with state partners in order to increase the number of appropriate referrals to the system. Six professional development activities were key to contributing to the state's increased child count.

Regional Grantees continue to partner with the Level III hospitals and High Risk Infant Follow-up programs in the state in order to facilitate increased referrals through the hospitals. The Region with two Level III hospitals and High Risk Infant Follow-up programs increased their birth to one numbers by 37 children and their birth to three numbers by 122 children. It is anticipated that this region will have a model of best practice to share with other regions who have both Level III and Level II birthing hospitals in the upcoming year. Statewide conversations continue about how to facilitate improved communication and referrals into the Early ACCESS program. This activity will be the foundation for the development of program procedures for working with birthing hospitals across the state.

Collaboration with Iowa's Statewide Perinatal Care Program continued for FFY 2007 (2007-2008). This program provides professional training and consultation to regional and primary providers in order to reduce the mortality and morbidity of infants. State staff continues to work to integrate Early ACCESS into the program.

State staff continued to deliver training curriculum titled: *One of These Kids is Not Like the Others: Identifying Young Children with Developmental Delays and How to Talk to Their Parents About Your Concerns*. The training is targeted for early care, health, and education service providers. Training aims to help professionals identify children with developmental delays in order to make appropriate referrals to Early ACCESS, discuss with parents concerns about their child's development, and understand what referral sources can expect from the Part C system. Training has been delivered via state staff at several statewide early care, health and education conferences and in local community agencies. This activity was an opportunity for professional development related to making referrals to the system.

The Lead Agency continued to partner with the Iowa Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program to ensure that children who missed or did not pass their initial newborn hearing screening received follow-up. The EHDI staff identified children in need of audiological follow up through the EHDI data system and referred them to the Part C system. An early intervention provider was assigned to assist the family through the process, addressing any barriers to obtaining needed screenings and/or early intervention services.

1st Five Healthy Mental Development Initiative (formally the Assuring Better Child Health and Development) continued to expand in FFY2007 (2007-2008). Iowa's1st Five Healthy Mental Development Initiative focused on building supportive partnerships between primary care providers and public health agencies to deliver a seamless system of care for at-risk children and families. Iowa's 1st Five activities began in October 2006 with three implementation activities

spanning eight counties and now have coverage of twenty-one counties. 1st Five sites recruit primary care practices to enhance well-child exams that include assessing for: social and emotional development; autism; family risk factors such as caregiver depression and family stress. This enhanced surveillance takes place concurrently with assessing for the development of a child's motor, language, cognitive and adaptive skills. 1st Five sites help to link families with community resources and facilitate referrals to appropriate services including Part C services. This collaboration builds infrastructure for support in relationship to receiving increased appropriate referrals from community partners.

In FFY 2007 (2007-2008) 12% percent abused and neglected children received Early ACCESS services compared to 5% the previous year. The Lead Agency and the Iowa Department of Human Services continue to work to develop more effective ways to engage parents and encourage them to consent to early intervention services. The Iowa Department of Human Services has formed a task team to identify strategies to increase the number of child abuse victims served by Early ACCESS. This activity seeks to improve data collection and reporting for a target population of children.

Innovative systemic efforts to improve timely and coordinated services were continued by the Polk County Juvenile court who started the *Court Teams for Change* project. The goal was to improve outcomes for infants and toddlers who have been removed from the home due to parental drug use or domestic violence. This collaborative effort involved the juvenile court, *Zero To Three* (a national infant-toddler advocacy organization), the Iowa Department of Human Services, service providers and Early ACCESS.

The *Court Teams for Change* workgroup with Lead Agency and Regional Grantee involvement met monthly to improve the delivery of services to the child and family. The first year of the project focused on developing interagency protocols that could facilitate a rapid response to infants and toddlers who had been removed from the home. The second and third year FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and FFY 2007 (2007-2008) was devoted to implementing and refining the research-based model.

Analysis of trend data from Iowa Department of Human Services FY 2005 through FY 2008 was conducted at the end of 2008. Data revealed that, prior to the Court Teams for Change project, the number of children in the project's service area who were abused or neglected and on IFSPs was lower than other service areas of the state. After working collaboratively with Early ACCESS and juvenile courts the number of DHS clients served by Early ACCESS increased significantly (doubled).

During FFY 2007 (2007-2008), the *Court Teams for Change* project also focused on disseminating the model statewide and providing technical assistance to agencies that want to adopt the model. A related effort, *Court Improvement Project,* submitted a successful grant application to provide funding to five different sites in Iowa. Partners are developing supports through intensive community collaboration as well as instituting research-based and best practices to enhance practice and outcomes for parents and children.

In addition to the aforementioned six professional development activities that were key to contributing to the state's increased child count, the Lead Agency is anticipating about the potential for growth and quality improvement with the new vendor for the central point of contact and central directory. The new vendor has outlined plans for an aggressive outreach campaign that will target all public libraries in the state and metro areas that have public transportation systems.

Ongoing monitoring and enforcement as needed In FFY 2007 (2007-2008) the Lead Agency monitored effective child find in all Regional Grantees. Trend data showed increases for five of the ten regions. While the state met the overall target, nine regions did meet the target and one region did not. That one region did show significant improvement from the previous year. The

region that did not meet the state target was required to analyze their data for root causes and submit an improvement plan with research/evidence-based strategies. Improvement plans identified the need to increase management time dedicated to Early ACCESS, and the need to analyze referral source data and the outcomes of referrals by referral source.

While five of the ten regions' data increased, five regions also experienced slippage. Because of the rural demographics of Iowa (small n size), the actual difference in number of children from FFY 2006 (2006-2007) to FFY 2007 (2007-2008) was no more than a difference of 20 children in the regions that experienced slippage.

Each region submitted year end reports to document improvement activities that were conducted to reach and/or maintain state targets in all indicators. Regional activities during FFY 2007 (2007-2008) included meeting with family support programs, healthcare providers, joining community boards and committees, hiring staff to develop community relationships, increasing authority and dedicated staff time to Part C, increasing the responses sent to referral sources when referrals have been made, and working with Signatory Agencies at the local level. Those who did not meet child find targets have identified referral sources to target outreach efforts which include: parents, family support workers, physicians and Department of Human Services staff.

The Lead Agency also monitored the effectiveness of previous years' focus monitoring site visits. A Focused Monitoring Site Visit was conducted in November of 2005 on the topic of Early Identification with one largely populated region. After baseline year FFY 2004 (2004-2005) their overall birth to three count increased from 1.77% to 2.0% in FFY 2005 (2005-2006); by the second year FFY 2006 (2006-2007) to 2.6%; by the third year FFY 2007 (2007-2008) to 2.89 %, substantially exceeding the 2.1% state target.

Revisions, with Justification, to Proposed Targets/Improvement Activities/Timelines/ Resources for FFY 2008 (2008-2009):

There are no revisions of targets, improvement activities, timelines or resources for FFY 2008 (2008-2009). In order to maintain target performance, the Lead Agency will continue to implement activities outlined in the State Performance Plan.

Part C State Annual Performance Report (APR) for FFY 2007 (2007-2008)

Overview of the Annual Performance Report Development:

The Part C Annual Performance Report (APR) was developed by Lead Agency staff reviewing baseline data, targets and improvement activities and drafting a report for each indicator. Once draft indicator reports were written, stakeholder groups provided input regarding these three components and comments were compiled. Stakeholder groups included the State Interagency Coordinating Council (Iowa Council for Early ACCESS), Regional Grantee Administrators, Early ACCESS Leadership Group, and the Lead Agency Department of Education staff. See Overview of Annual Performance Report Development section for annual reporting to public.

Monitoring Priority: Effective General Supervision Part C / Child Find

Indicator 7: Percent of eligible infants and toddlers with IFSPs for whom an evaluation and assessment and an initial IFSP meeting were conducted within Part C's 45-day timeline.

(20 USC 1416(a)(3)(B) and 1442)

The following measurement for this indicator was a requirement of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) for both the six year State Performance Plan and each Annual Performance Report.

Measurement:

Percent = [(# of eligible infants and toddlers with IFSPs for whom an evaluation and assessment and an initial IFSP meeting was conducted within Part C's 45-day timeline) divided by the (# of eligible infants and toddlers evaluated and assessed)] times 100.

Account for untimely evaluations.

OSEP has designated Indicator C7 as a compliance indicator; therefore all states are required to set the target at 100%.

The provision of an evaluation and assessment and an initial IFSP meeting with a 45-day timeline is a compliance indicator and OSEP designated the measurable and rigorous target at 100%. Each annual target of the six year State Performance Plan is set at 100%.

FFY	Measurable and Rigorous Target
2007 (2007-2008)	100% of eligible infants and toddlers with IFSPs were evaluated and assessed, and had an initial IFSP meeting within Part C's 45-day timeline.

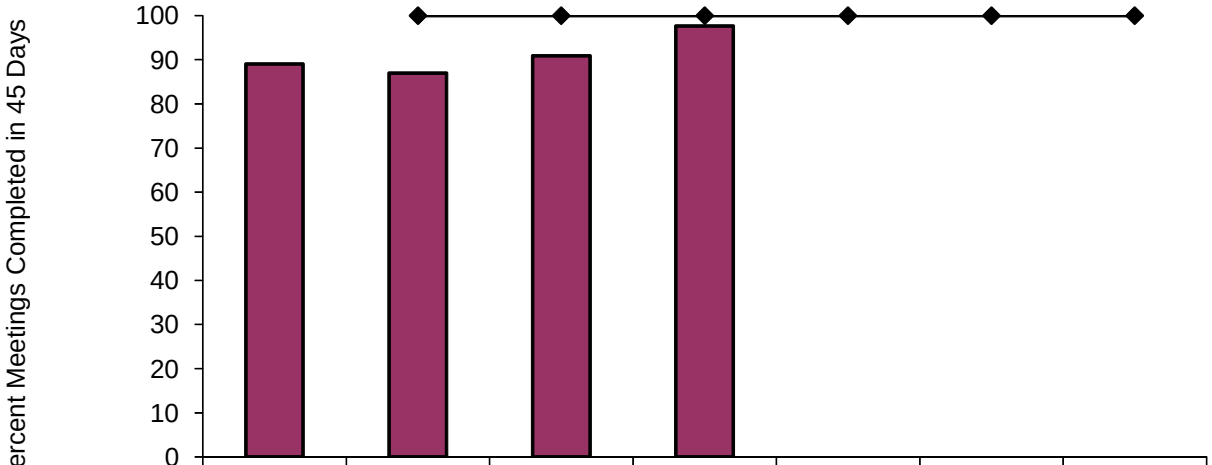
Actual Target Data for FFY 2007 (2007-2008):

Data were collected and analyzed for FFY 2007 (2007-2008) on the infants and toddlers with an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) for whom an evaluation and assessment and an initial IFSP meeting was conducted within 45-days from the referral date. Data reflected actual number of days, not averages. In FFY 2006 (2006-2007), the Lead Agency revised prior data sampling requirements using the General File Review and changed to a statewide electronic data submission system. All Regional Grantees were required to enter data into the statewide data system on each initial IFSP, strengthening data validity from 10% sampling to census. The Lead Agency had determined previous sampling of IFSPs through General File Review could be improved to collect rigorous and timely data by using electronic management of data in order to monitor Regional Grantee's compliance in this area. Regional Grantees entered data for every IFSP into Iowa's Information Management System (IMS) and, when applicable, the reason the 45-day timeline was not met. Data for FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and FFY 2007 (2007-2008) were drawn from IMS.

As required by the Office of Special Education Program's letter regarding Iowa's State Performance Plan (submitted December 2, 2005), the number of children who had an exceptional circumstance for not meeting the 45-day timeline were included in the calculation of target data (in both numerator and denominator). Details of those exceptional circumstances are discussed later in *Discussion of Improvement Activities Completed and Explanation of Progress or Slippage that occurred for FFY 2007 (2007-2008)*.

Trend data in Figure C7.1 shows baseline, data for three federal fiscal years (FFY) and the target for the percent of evaluations and IFSP meetings conducted within and not within the 45-day timeline that had documented exceptional family circumstances.

Figure C7.1 Percent of Eligible Infants and Toddlers With IFSPs for Whom Evaluations and Initial IFSP Meetings Were Conducted Within 45-Day Timeline.

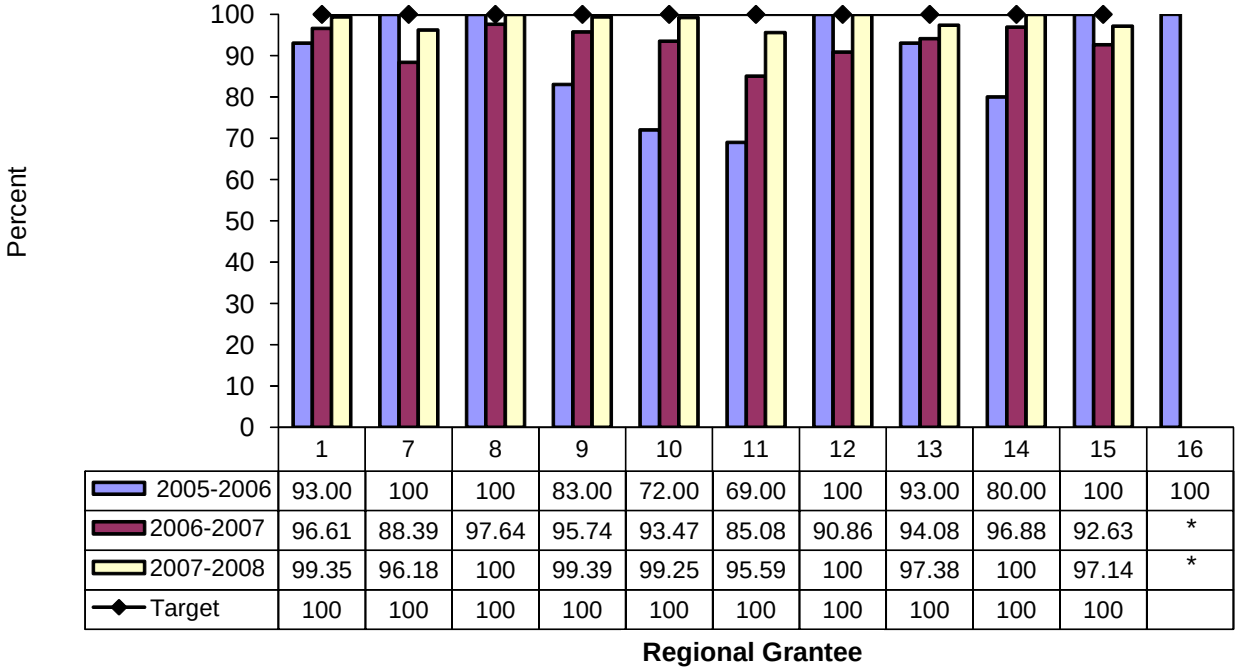


	2004-2005 Baseline	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
State	89.00	87.00	90.90	97.66			
Target		100	100	100	100	100	100

Source. Part C Regional Monitoring Data - File Review, FFY 2004 (2004-2005) - FFY 2005 (2005-2006) and Iowa Information Management System (IMS), FFY 2006 (2006-2007) - FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

Figure C7.2 shows the Regional Grantee target data for FFY 2005 (2005-2006), FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and FFY 2007 (2007-2008) compared to the state target for the percent of eligible infants and toddlers with IFSPs for whom evaluations and assessments and initial IFSP meetings were conducted within and not within the 45-day timeline that had documented exceptional family circumstances.

Figure C7.2. Percent of Eligible Infants and Toddlers With IFSPs for Whom Evaluations and Initial IFSP Meetings Were Conducted Within 45-Day Timeline, By Regional Grantee.



	1	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
2005-2006	93.00	100	100	83.00	72.00	69.00	100	93.00	80.00	100	100
2006-2007	96.61	88.39	97.64	95.74	93.47	85.08	90.86	94.08	96.88	92.63	*
2007-2008	99.35	96.18	100	99.39	99.25	95.59	100	97.38	100	97.14	*
Target	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	

Source. Part C Regional Monitoring Data - File Review, FFY 2005 (2005-2006) and Iowa Information Management System (IMS), FFY 2006 (2006-2007) - FFY 2007 (2007-2008).
* *Note.* In FFY 2006 (2006-2007) Regional Grantees 15 and 16 merged. Data for both are reported as Regional Grantee 15.

Table C7.1 shows Regional Grantee data for FFY 2007 (2007-2008) for the percent and number of eligible infants and toddlers with IFSPs for whom evaluations and IFSP meetings conducted within (Column B) and not within the 45-day timeline that had documented exceptional family circumstances (Column C). The Table also provides percent and number of the infants and toddlers with IFSPs who either had evaluations and initial IFSP meetings within the 45-day timeline or were delayed due to exceptional family circumstances (column D). Percent and number of the infants and toddlers with IFSPs who had evaluations and initial IFSP meetings not conducted within 45 day timeline with documented exceptional family circumstances is also provided (column E).

Table C7.1.
Percent and Number of Eligible Infants and Toddlers With IFSPs for Whom Evaluations and Initial IFSPs Meeting Were Conducted Within 45-Day Timeline and Percent and Numbers of Family Reasons for Delay.

A	B	C	D	E
Regional Grantee	Evaluations and IFSP Meetings Within 45 Days	Delayed for Family Reasons	Total Evaluations and IFSP Meetings Within 45 Days Plus those Delayed for Family Reasons (B+C)	Evaluations and Meetings NOT Within 45 Days with Family Reason Documented
1	90.85% 139/153	8.50% 13/153	99.35% 152/153	0.65% 1/153
7	72.77% 286/393	23.41% 92/393	96.18% 378/393	3.82% 15/393
8	81.62% 151/185	18.38% 34/185	100% 185/185	0% 0/185
9	88.15% 290/329	11.25% 37/329	99.39% 327/329	0.61% 2/329
10	88.97% 355/399	10.28% 41/399	99.25% 396/399	0.75% 3/399
11	76.27% 675/885	19.32% 171/885	95.59% 846/885	4.41% 39/885
12	71.24% 166/233	28.76% 67/233	100% 233/233	0% 0/233
13	83.25% 159/191	14.14% 27/191	97.38% 186/191	2.62% 5/191
14	87.72% 50/57	12.28% 7/57	100% 57/57	0% 0/57
15	80.00% 168/210	17.14% 36/210	97.14% 204/210	2.86% 6/210
State	80.36% 2439/3035	17.30% 525/3035	97.66% 2964/3035	2.34% 71/3035

Source. Iowa Information Management System (IMS), FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

Discussion of Improvement Activities Completed and Explanation of Progress or Slippage that Occurred for FFY 2007 (2007-2008):

Results indicated progress in the State's performance to attain the target for the 45-day timeline for completing evaluations, assessments and conducting initial IFSP meetings from last year (90.91% to 97.66%), an increase of 6.75%. The FFY 2007 (2007–2008) data indicated that of the 3035 referrals to Part C, Early ACCESS, 80.36% (2439/3035) were completed within 45 days of the initial referral. In addition, data indicated that of the referrals that were not completed within the 45-day timeline, 525 were due to exceptional family circumstances. The allowable exceptional circumstances were documented child or family reasons for not conducting an evaluation, assessment and an initial IFSP meeting within the 45-day timeline. In calculating the data (2439 + 525) for the measurement, the State completed 97.66% (2964/3035) of the referrals to Early ACCESS within the 45-day timeline.

Untimely evaluations and assessments and initial IFSP meetings were identified by Regional Grantees and the Lead Agency through root cause analyses. Reasons included need for clarity of requirements and how to schedule accordingly; difficulty in completing health and vision assessments in timely manner; inability to locate families to start evaluation activities; and documentation issues on the IFSP.

In response to requirements in the June 6, 2008 OSEP Response Table for Iowa's FFY 2006 (2006-2007) Annual Performance Report, the Lead Agency reviewed its improvement activities and engaged in multiple activities to improve achievement of this target. Improvement activities to verify data, analyze data, provide ongoing monitoring, revise state IFSP forms, and implement targeted technical assistance are described in detail below, including refinements made in to improve achievement of this target.

Verification of data. Iowa's IMS data system entails data checks at several steps:

Step 1. Regional Grantee IMS data entry personnel are trained to review IFSPs for completeness and consistency. If needed, IFSP team members are contacted to clarify or complete specific data or the IFSP is returned for corrections.

Step 2. When data are entered into IMS, several types of automatic data quality messages appear on the IMS screens:

- When a new eligible child is entered, the statewide historical database is queried to see if the child may have had an earlier IFSP. A list of near matches, based on name and birth date, is provided so that data entry personnel can check to see if the new child was previously served. This routine reduces the risk of the same child having two different IMS identification numbers.
- Some data fields are required before data entry can continue. For example, if the resident district code, gender, ethnicity, birth date, or serve status is left blank, a message appears with a prompt and no further data entry is allowed until a valid value is entered.
- For other data fields, a message appears but data entry may continue. For example, if the code is left blank, a message advises the operator but data entry continues. These messages are saved and written to a Verification Report (see below).

Step 3. A Verification Report sorted by Regional Grantee, lists data warnings and possible data errors that need to be checked. The report is run in real time so it is continuously updated and available to data entry personnel. Data entry personnel review the report for his or her respective Regional Grantee, cross checking against the IFSP and following up with Regional Grantee and local IFSP team members as needed. Types of warnings in the report include possible duplicate children, questionable age/IFSP age-eligibility combination, blank Infant/Toddler code, invalid program/service combination, and invalid full-part time code. The Verification Report is monitored by the Lead Agency to ensure that

Regional Grantees regularly access and review potential errors during the two critical seasons for data entry (count/setting and exit).

Step 4. Lead Agency data personnel periodically review IMS data and contact IMS and Regional Grantee staff with specific accuracy issues above and beyond the Verification Report to rectify any data abnormalities.

Data verification procedures for IMS are described in more depth in Indicator 14.

Analyzing of data to identify concerns. Data were analyzed by the Lead Agency, Regional Grantee Leadership and State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) to identify concerns. The State changed from 10% sampling to census data collection beginning FFY 2006 (2006-2007), which strengthened the validity of the measure. In FFY 2007 (2007-2008) the data indicated that of the 3035 infants and toddlers referred to Early ACCESS, 2439 had an evaluation, assessment and an initial IFSP meeting within the 45-day timeline and 525 had exceptional circumstances attributed to child or family reasons for exceeding this timeline. The data indicated that 71 infants and toddlers did not have an evaluation, assessment and an initial IFSP meeting conducted within the 45-day timeline due to reasons other than documented exceptional family circumstances.

The state performance is high and close to the 100% target (97.66%). Considering the mobilization of the at-risk population and the rural area challenges serving families, the data results show continued improvement. Suggestions were made by stakeholders that intake personnel may need to ask referral sources to provide alternate suggestions for locating families to begin the evaluation process such as call the public health nurse in rural areas or obtain cell phone numbers, or ask for relative phone number or address.

In FFY 2007 (2007-2008), all of the Regional Grantees increased the percentage of referrals that met the 45-day timeline. Three of the Regional Grantees achieved the state target of 100% and the remaining seven Regional Grantees were above 95%. Regions that did not meet the state target of 100% were required to analyze their data for root causes and submit an improvement plan with research/evidence-based strategies addressing identified problems.

The FFY 2007 (2007-2008) data reflected an increase in the percentage of referrals that were conducted within the 45-day timeline in all 10 regions. These data document the referrals conducted after the implementation of corrective actions and improvement activities in all regions from the previous year. The Lead Agency will continue to monitor performance of all regions through regularly scheduled census data verification reports in FFY 2008 (2008-2009).

Analysis of policies, procedures and practices. In FFY 2005 (2005-2006), after analyzing baseline data, the Lead Agency established an in-house work group to research and analyze Regional Grantees not meeting the 45-day timeline for evaluation and IFSP meeting requirement. The statewide work group studied the service providers' challenges in meeting the 45-day timeline requirement. National experts in evaluation and assessment including the OSEP-funded National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (NECTAC) were brought in for two meetings, and research and evidence-based practices were analyzed.

Based on recommendations from the workgroup, the Lead Agency determined that regional procedures needed to be revised and guidance provided to the Regional Grantees and Signatory Agencies. During FFY 2006 (2006-2007), the statewide work group developed guidelines and presented the guidelines to Regional Grantee Administrators and Leadership Groups, Executive Committee of the ICC, and Signatory Agencies for feedback. The guidelines were revised each time to reflect input from the groups.

During FFY 2007 (2007-2008), Regional Grantees Administrators (AEA) made a commitment to develop and adopt uniform procedures for implementation of IDEA, Parts C and B. Committees

were formed with membership from each Regional Grantee/AEA and Lead Agency staff to write the portions of the *AEA IDEA Part B and C Procedures Manual.* The Early ACCESS Procedures Manual Committee studied the recommendations of the aforementioned statewide work group and incorporated the work into the Part C section of the manual in order to enhance systematic evaluation, assessment and initial IFSP meetings within the 45-day timeline for children referred to Early ACCESS. The Manual will be launched in FFY 2008 (2008-2009) and is intended to improve consistency in implementation of IDEA across the state and an opportunity to clarify issues that the field has identified.

In addition, during FFY 2007 (2007-2008), the Lead Agency analyzed and revised the statewide IFSP forms to improve the documentation of conducting an evaluation, assessment and initial IFSP meetings within the 45-day timeline which was identified as one root cause contributing to inconsistent documentation. The Lead Agency trained the Regional Grantees, Signatory Agencies and IMS Data Entry Personnel in August of FFY 2008 (2008-2009), and Regional Grantees were required to begin using the revised IFSP forms following training.

Technical Assistance. Technical assistance developed by the Lead Agency and provided to the Regional Grantees focused on the importance of evaluation and assessment of infants and toddlers and an initial IFSP meeting within the 45-day timelines, the awareness of all regions needing to meet the target of 100%, the need for clear documentation on the IFSP when the referral was received and when the IFSP was written, and understanding of the data entry system using the IMS. The Lead Agency has emphasized to Regional Grantees and Signatory Agencies that the diagnostic instruments used must be valid and reliable for the population tested, have strong technical adequacy, and support current practices in evaluation and assessment of infants and toddlers.

The competency based Service Coordination Training Program was launched in FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and training has continued to be implemented statewide during FFY 2007 (2007-2008). The five service coordination modules were based on federal statute, research and best practice. These modules focused on effective service coordination, incorporating state policies and procedures, and best practices regarding timely service provision. Module 3, *The Early ACCESS Process*, specifically attends to the requirements and timelines of evaluation, assessment and initial IFSP meetings and IFSP documentation. An interagency pool of trainers was designated by Regional Grantee Administration and Signatory Agencies to implement the Service Coordination training. These trainers attended intensive three-day Approved Trainer sessions for each module of training delivered. Trainers provided module trainings in FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and FFY 2007 (2007-2008) throughout the state. Service Coordination Modules 1 and 3 especially focused on the IFSP procedures, including the 45-day timeline. Eighty-eight percent (88%) of all 317 service coordinators in the state completed the requirements of the training program. Iowa anticipates that when data collection occurs in FFY 2008 (2008-2009), the other 22% will attend trainings as scheduled alternately throughout the regions during FFY 2008 (2008-2009) and all current service coordinators will meet service coordinator competency training requirements.

The Lead Agency continued to partner with the Iowa Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program to ensure that children who missed or did not pass their initial newborn hearing screening received follow-up. The EHDI staff identified children in need of timely audiological follow up through the EHDI data system and referred them to the Part C system. An early intervention provider was assigned to assist the family through the process, addressing any barriers to obtaining needed screenings and/or early intervention services as early as possible.

More information about Regional improvement activities conducted in response to root cause analyses can be found in the next section, *Ongoing monitoring and enforcement as needed*.

Ongoing monitoring and enforcement as needed. In response to requirements in the June 6, 2008 OSEP Response Table for Iowa's FFY 2006 (2006-2007) Annual Performance Report, the Lead Agency identified and addressed noncompliance in Indicator C7. All ten regions did not meet the 100% target in FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and were notified of non-compliance findings. All ten regions were required to analyze root causes and submitted a SPP Action Plan to correct noncompliance within one year. The SPP Action Plan was approved by the Lead Agency. Results of corrections within one year will be reported in next year's FFY 2008 (2008-2009).

All 10 regions submitted year end reports to document improvement activities that were conducted to reach the state target for compliance in timely evaluations and initial IFSP meetings. The FFY 2007 (2007-2008) improvement activities designed to match root causes included providing clarified procedures for staff; problem solving methods to obtain timely health and vision assessments; dealing with cases when unable to contact family; providing training to all agency staff about timelines and scheduling options; increasing FTE; and maintaining an infrastructure of technical assistance and support by providing ongoing meetings and training to specific groups, such as service coordinators and IMS staff. All Regional Grantees indicated that they periodically used the IMS verification reports to monitor their agencies' performance and accurate data collection on this requirement. In addition, five of the Regional Grantees established a notification system using technology to assist staff in monitoring and meeting the 45-day timeline.

These improvement activities assisted in significantly increasing the percent of evaluations, assessments and IFSP meetings conducted in the 45-day timeline. All ten of the Regional Grantees that did not meet 100% compliance in FFY 2006 (2006-2007) are now in substantial compliance. The Lead Agency will continue to monitor progress of all regions through regularly scheduled data verification reports in FFY 2008 (2008-2009) and support implementation of improvement strategies. The Lead Agency has required improvement plans of all regions that did not meet the target. Improvement activities for FFY2008 (2008-2009) include: supervisory oversight; change/refinement of procedures; data analyses for root causes and problem-solving; increase FTE; data verification; information technology notification systems regarding timelines; newsletter features; training and regular ongoing support to service coordinators.

Revisions, with Justification, to Proposed Targets/Improvement Activities/Timelines/ Resources for FFY 2008 (2008-2009):

In response to requirements in the June 6, 2008 OSEP Response Table for Iowa's FFY 2006 (2006-2007) Annual Performance Report, the Lead Agency reviewed its improvement activities and determined activities outlined in the State Performance Plan (February 1, 2008 version) were research-based, aligned with addressing underlying problems, demonstrated effective results and will continue as outlined in State Performance Plan. There are no revisions to Iowa's proposed targets, improvement activities, timelines or resources for FFY 2008 (2008-2009).

Part C State Annual Performance Report (APR) for FFY 2007 (2007-2008)

Overview of the Annual Performance Report Development:

The Part C Annual Performance Report (APR) was developed by Lead Agency staff reviewing baseline data, targets and improvement activities and drafting a report for each indicator. Once draft indicator reports were written, stakeholder groups provided input regarding these three components and comments were compiled. Stakeholder groups included the State Interagency Coordinating Council (Iowa Council for Early ACCESS), Regional Grantee Administrators, Early ACCESS Leadership Group, and the Lead Agency Department of Education staff. See Overview of Annual Performance Report Development section for annual reporting to public.

Monitoring Priority: Effective General Supervision Part C / Effective Transition

Indicator 8: Percent of all children exiting Part C who received timely transition planning to support the child's transition to preschool and other appropriate community services by their third birthday including:

A. IFSPs with transition steps and services;
B. Notification to Local Education Agency (LEA), if child potentially eligible for Part B; and
C. Transition conference, if child potentially eligible for Part B.

(20 USC 1416(a)(3)(B) and 1442)

The following measurement for this indicator was a requirement of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) for both the six year State Performance Plan and each Annual Performance Report.

Measurement:

A. Percent = [(# of children exiting Part C who have an IFSP with transition steps and services) divided by (# of children exiting Part C)] times 100.

B. Percent = [(# of children exiting Part C and potentially eligible for Part B where notification to the LEA occurred) divided by the (# of children exiting Part C who were potentially eligible for Part B)] times 100.

C. Percent = [(# of children exiting Part C and potentially eligible for Part B where the transition conference occurred) divided by the (# of children exiting Part C who were potentially eligible for Part B)] times 100.

The provision of timely transition planning is a compliance indicator. Therefore, this measurable and rigorous target was set at 100%, by OSEP, since it is considered a compliance indicator important for all children to attain or receive benefit. Each annual target of the six year State Performance Plan is set at 100%.

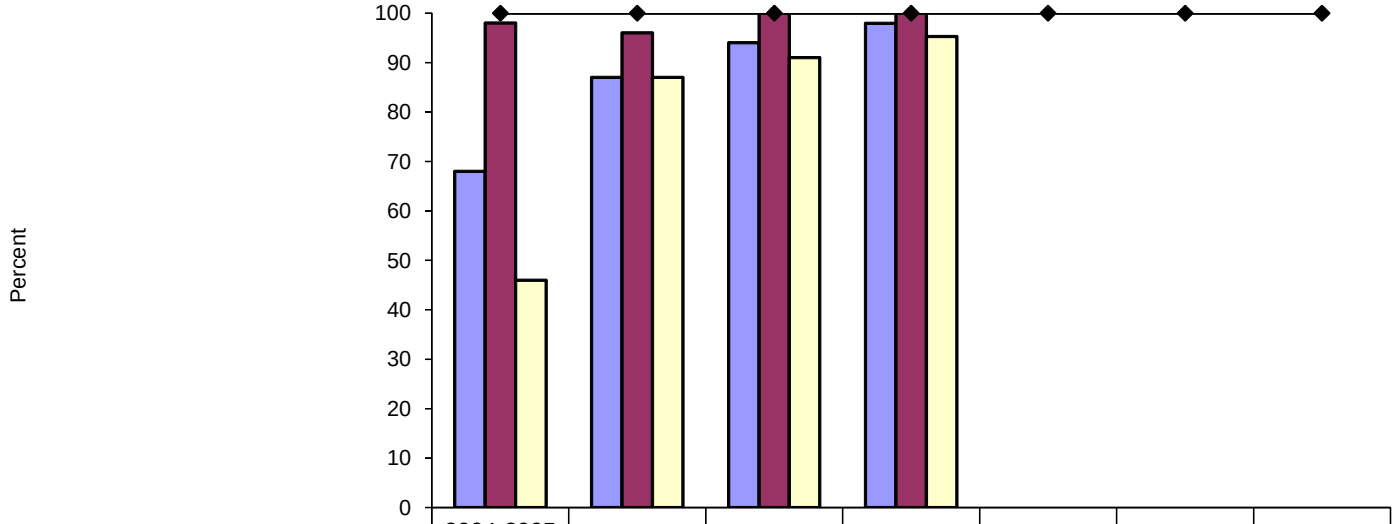
FFY	Measurable and Rigorous Target
2007 (2007-2008)	100% of children exiting Part C received timely transition planning to support the child's transition to preschool and other appropriate community services by their third birthday, including (A) IFSPs with transition steps and services; (B) Notification to the LEA if the child is potentially eligible for Part B; and (C) Transition conference if the child is potentially eligible for Part B.

Actual Target Data for FFY 2007 (2007-2008):

Figure C8.1 shows the state baseline and subsequent yearly data and target for the percent of children exiting Part C who received timely transition planning including (A) IFSP Transition Steps and Services, (B) Notification to the LEA (AEA), and (C) Timely Transition Conferences. Data were obtained from state monitoring data. All ten regions were provided a random sample of 10% of the active IFSP files or a minimum of 15 (N=295). Samples were taken from IFSP and Individualized Education Program (IEP) files of children exiting Part C and eligible for Part B or children exiting Part C for other services.

As required, the Lead Agency included in its calculation of C8(C) the number of children for whom the timeline was not met due to exceptional family circumstances; the number is included in both the numerator and denominator. The state did not include in the calculation the number of children for whom the family did not provide approval to conduct the transition conference which resulted in delays in timely transition (C). Numbers used to determine this calculation are provided later in this section.

Figure C8.1. Percent of Children Exiting Part C Who Received Timely Transition Planning Including (A) Steps and Services, (B) Notification to the LEA, and (C) Timely Transition Conferences.



	2004-2005 (Baseline)	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
Steps and Services	68.00	87.00	94.00	97.96			
Notification to the LEA (AEA)	98.00	96.00	100	100			
Transition Services	46.00	87.00	91.00	95.25			
Target	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source. Part C Regional Monitoring Data - File Review, FFY 2005 (2005-2006) and Iowa's System to Achieve Results (I-STAR), FFY 2006 (2006-2007) - FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

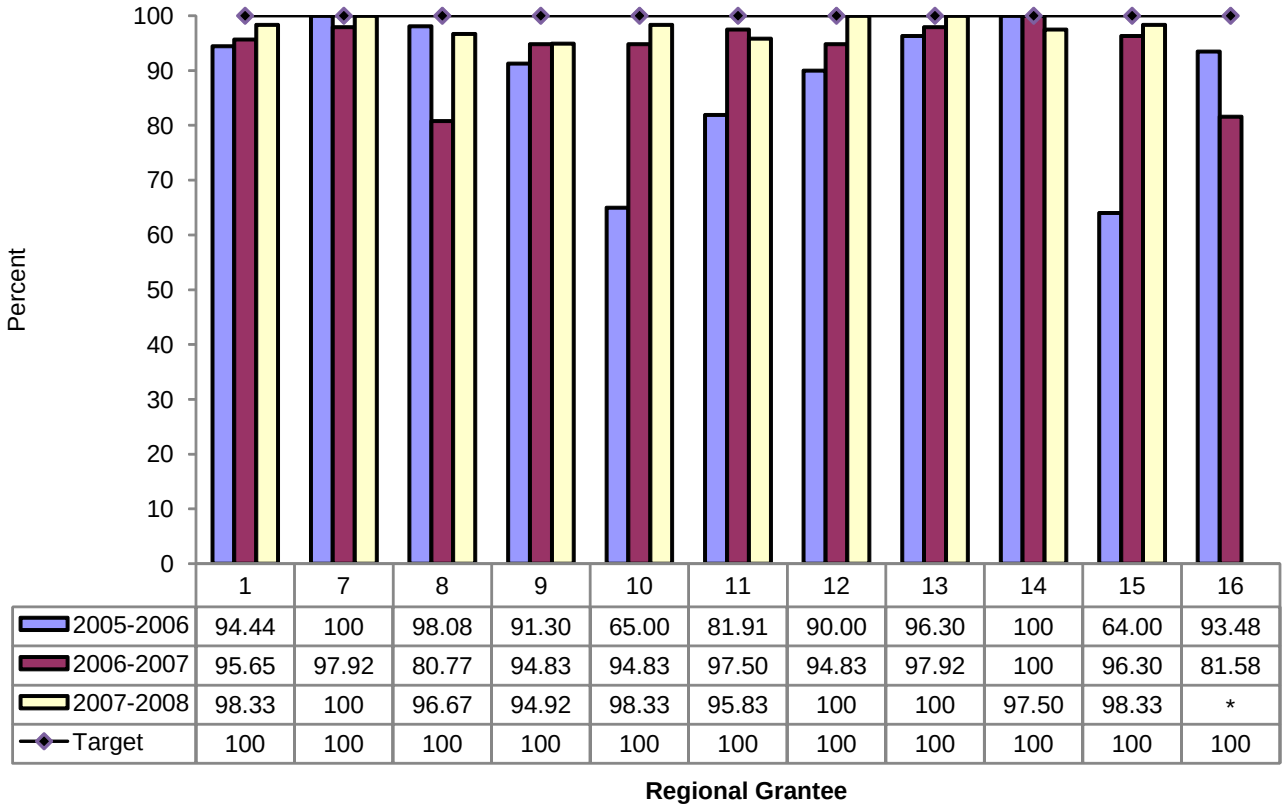
Table C8.1 shows the Regional Grantee data for the percent and number of Self-Assessment File Reviews meeting timely transition planning requirements including (A) IFSP Transition Steps and Services, (B) Notification to the LEA (AEA), and (C) Timely Transition Conferences by Regional Grantee and State.

Table C8.1
Percent (Number/Total Number) of File Reviews Meeting (A) Steps and Services, (B) Notification to the LEA, and (C) Timely Transition Conferences by Regional Grantee and State.

Regional Grantee and State Totals										
1	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**	**State**
(A) IFSP Transition Steps and Services										
98.33%	100%	96.67%	94.92%	98.33%	95.83%	100%	100%	97.50%	98.33%	97.96%
59/60	60/60	58/60	56/59	59/60	69/72	60/60	58/58	39/40	59/60	577/589
(B) Notification to LEA (AEA)										
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
14/14	15/15	15/15	15/15	15/15	20/20	15/15	16/16	10/10	15/15	150/150
(C) Timely Transition Conference										
96.67%	100%	100%	93.33%	93.33%	100%	96.67%	82.76%	90.00%	96.67%	95.25%
29/30	30/30	30/30	28/30	28/30	36/36	29/30	24/29	18/20	29/30	281/295

The following three figures depict the trend data for Regional Grantees, FFY 2005 (2005-2006), FFY 2006 (2006-2007), and FFY 2007 (2007-2008). Figure C8.2 shows the Regional Grantee data for the percent of file reviews meeting (A) IFSP Transition Steps and Services, Figure C8.3 shows the Regional Grantee data for the percent of file reviews meeting (B) Notification to the LEA (AEA), and Figure C8.4 shows the Regional Grantee data for the percent of file reviews meeting (C) Timely Transition Conference.

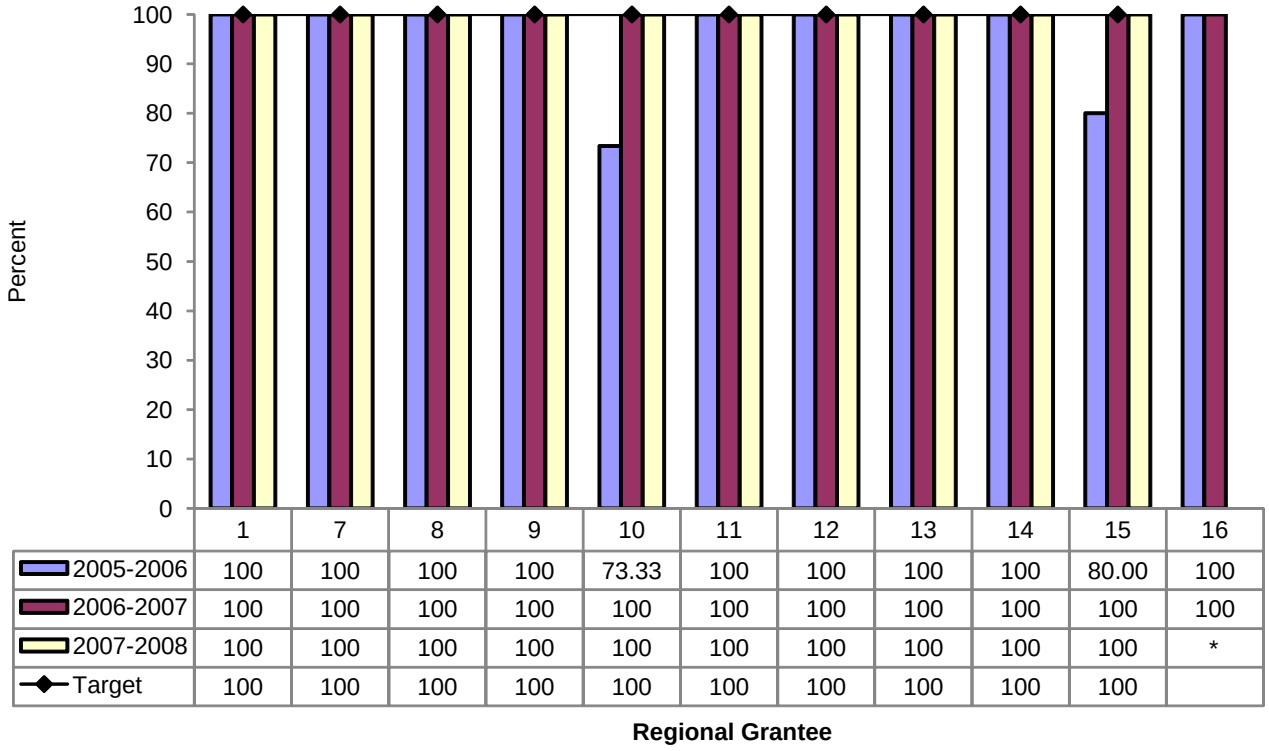
Figure C8.2. Percent of Children Exiting Part C Who Received Timely Transition Planning Including (A) Transition Steps and Services by Regional Grantee, Three-Year Trend.



	1	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
2005-2006	94.44	100	98.08	91.30	65.00	81.91	90.00	96.30	100	64.00	93.48
2006-2007	95.65	97.92	80.77	94.83	94.83	97.50	94.83	97.92	100	96.30	81.58
2007-2008	98.33	100	96.67	94.92	98.33	95.83	100	100	97.50	98.33	*
Target	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source. Iowa's System to Achieve Results (I-STAR), FFY 2005 (2005-2006) - FFY 2007 (2007-2008).
* *Note.* In FFY 2006 (2006-2007) Regional Grantees 15 and 16 merged. Data for both are reported as Regional Grantee 15.

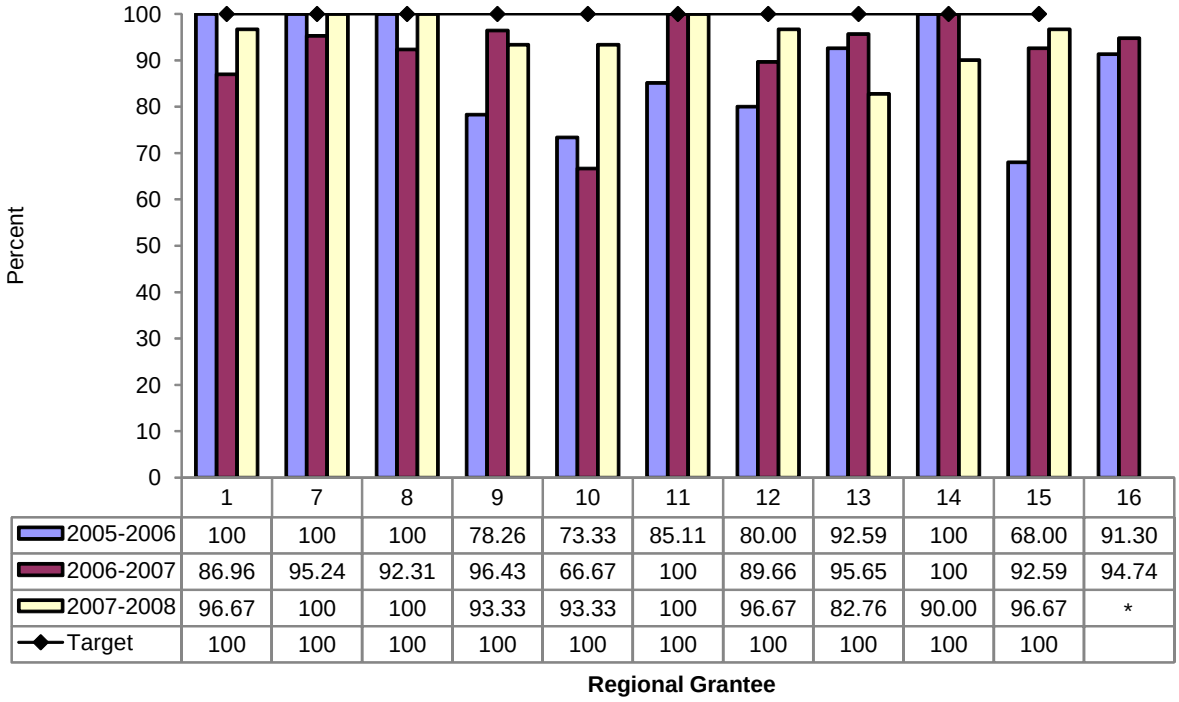
Figure C8.3. Percent of Children Exiting Part C Who Received Timely Transition Planning Including (B) Notification to the LEA (AEA) by Regional Grantee, Three-Year Trend.



	1	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
2005-2006	100	100	100	100	73.33	100	100	100	100	80.00	100
2006-2007	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
2007-2008	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*
Target	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	

Source. Iowa's System to Achieve Results (I-STAR), FFY 2005 (2005-2006) - FFY 2007 (2007-2008).
* *Note.* In FFY 2006 (2006-2007) Regional Grantees 15 and 16 merged. Data for both are reported as Regional Grantee 15.

Figure C8.4. Percent of Children Exiting Part C Who Received Timely Transition Planning Including (C) Timely Transition by Regional Grantee, Three-Year Trend.



	1	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
2005-2006	100	100	100	78.26	73.33	85.11	80.00	92.59	100	68.00	91.30
2006-2007	86.96	95.24	92.31	96.43	66.67	100	89.66	95.65	100	92.59	94.74
2007-2008	96.67	100	100	93.33	93.33	100	96.67	82.76	90.00	96.67	*
Target	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	

Source . Iowa's System to Achieve Results (I-STAR), FFY 2005 (2005-2006) - FFY 2007 (2007-2008).
* *Note.* In FFY 2006 (2006-2007) Regional Grantees 15 and 16 merged. Data for both are reported as Regional Grantee 15.

Discussion of Improvement Activities Completed and Explanation of Progress or Slippage that Occurred for FFY 2007 (2007-2008):

Iowa continued to make progress for this indicator compared to the baseline data reported in Iowa's State Performance Plan. All three subcomponents (A), (B), and (C) are at or increased to the target of 100% compliance for FFY 2007 (2007-2008). The target of 100% was met for the second consecutive year in subcomponent (B) Notification to the LEA (AEA). Data for subcomponents (A) and (C) indicate consistent, significant improvement; subcomponent (A) IFSP Steps and Services increased from 94.00% to 97.96% (increase of 3.96%) and subcomponent (C) Timely Transition Conference increased from 91.00% to 95.25% (increase of 4.25%).

As required to report, the Lead Agency included in its calculations of C8(C), the number of children for whom the timeline was not met due to exceptional family circumstances. Data from the web-based Self-Assessment File Review monitoring system (I-STAR) were analyzed for the reason of delay of the transition conference [C8C)]. A total of 14 IFSPs did not meet a timely transition conference (state total of 295 minus 281, IFSPs not meeting timely transition conference = 14). A timely transition conference was not held in 10 cases due to staff reasons, which were addressed in Technical Assistance guidance by the Lead Agency. For two files, the initial IFSP meeting and the transition conference occurred simultaneously less than 90 days before the third birthday due to the timing of the referral. One file review indicated the reason there was delay in convening a transition conference was because the team needed additional time to collect information about the child's progress. The data also indicated that one family declined the transition conference. As required

from the Office of Special Education Programs Part C SPP/APR Indicator/Measurement Table guidance, this information was not included in Indicator 8C data.

Sixteen total children did not receive a timely transition conference due to family circumstances such as illness, hospitalization, military deployment, or death in the family. As required from OSEP Part C SPP/APR Indicator/Measurement Table guidance, these children whose files indicated that a timely transition conference did not occur due to exceptional family circumstances were included in the data.

In FFY 2007 (2007-2008), eight Regional Grantees progressed in (A) IFSP Transition Steps and Services. One Regional Grantee increased significantly from 80.77% to 96.67% (increase of 15.9%), one Regional Grantee increased from 94.83% to full compliance of 100% (increase of 5.17%). Five Regional Grantees demonstrated an increase of at least 2% and one Regional Grantee demonstrated an increase of less than 1%. Of the eight Regional Grantees making progress, three met the compliance target of 100%. Two Regional Grantees demonstrated slippage in (A) IFSP Transition Steps and Services. One Regional Grantee decreased from 97.5% to 95.83% (decrease of 1.67%) and the other Regional Grantee decreased from 100% to 97.5% (decrease of 2.5%). Analyses of slippage in the two regions revealed awareness that FFY 2007 (2007-2008) file reviews of IFSPs were conducted before training improvement activities were implemented.

All ten Regional Grantees maintained the compliance target of 100% in subcomponent (B) Notification to the LEA (AEA) from FFY 2006 (2006-2007) to FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

In FFY 2007 (2007-2008) five Regional Grantees progressed in subcomponent (C) Timely Transition Conference and two achieved 100% compliance. One Regional Grantee demonstrated a significant increase from 66.67% to 93.33% (increase of 26.66%). Four Regional Grantees showed slippage in subcomponent (C) Timely Transition Conference. One Regional Grantee decreased from 96.43% to 93.33% (decrease of 3.1%), one Regional Grantee slipped from 98.66% to 96.67% (decrease of 1.99%). Two Regional Grantees slipped more significantly from 95.65% to 82.76% (decrease of 12.89%) and from 100% to 90% (decrease of 10%) respectively.

In FFY 2007 (2007-2008) one Regional Grantee achieved 100% compliance in all subcomponents.

In efforts to correct noncompliance, the Lead Agency engaged in improvement activities with Regional Grantees and Signatory Agencies to make overall progress in improving results for this indicator. The Lead Agency focused on implementation of policy and procedure guidance for Regional Grantees and an online training program for transition procedures and requirements.

Verification of data. The Lead Agency maintained systemic procedures for monitoring (I-STAR) through the continuation of the contract with a web-based company to assure the collection of accurate data in the Part C Self-Assessment File Review. The Lead Agency provided the random sample for the Regional Grantees (10% of the files were sampled). Samples were taken from IFSPs of children exiting Part C and eligible for Part B or children exiting Part C for other services. This work provided consistent interpretation and thus data that reflected actual practice. Lead Agency Monitoring Consultant provided technical assistance and ongoing support to Regional Grantee personnel designated to enter data into the I-STAR system.

Analysis of data to identify concerns. In FFY 2007 (2007-2008) data were analyzed by Lead Agency, Early ACCESS leadership, and State Interagency Coordinating Council. All Regional Grantees maintained the target of 100% compliance for subcomponent (B) Notification to the LEA (AEA). While progress was made in (A) IFSP Transition Steps and Services and (C) Timely Transition Conference; the Lead Agency and all Regional Grantees had not yet reached compliance. Five of ten Regional Grantees had findings for noncompliance (see Ongoing Monitoring section) and were required to implement corrective action plans approved by the Lead Agency. The number of findings for Regional Grantees decreased in FFY 2007 (2007-2008) from

nine out of ten to five out of ten. Stakeholders input revealed that progress was due to implementation and focus on both state and regional improvement strategies described later in this indicator. The impact of increasing caseloads due to increased child count were noted as areas of concern from Regional Grantees.

The I-STAR data indicated that eight out of ten Regional Grantees improved in subcomponent (A) IFSP Transition Steps and Services. Of these eight, three Regional Grantees achieved the target of 100% compliance. All Regional Grantees maintained compliance for the second subsequent year in subcomponent (B) Notification to the LEA (AEA). In subcomponent (C) Timely Transition Conference, one Regional Grantee maintained 100% compliance for the second subsequent year and five Regional Grantees increased the percentage of (C) timely transition conference. Two of the five regions achieved the target of 100% compliance bringing the total meeting the target for (C) to three. Four Regional Grantees demonstrated a decline in (C) timely transition conference.

Regional Grantees that had findings for noncompliance analyzed data and determined need of documentation, guidance regarding transition and related requirements, ongoing monitoring, and training in order to meet compliance. Regions that did not meet state targets were required to analyze data for root causes and submit an improvement plan with research and evidence-based strategies. Conclusions and actions taken by the Lead Agency and Regional Grantees as a result of these analyses are described in subsequent sections of this indicator.

Analysis of policies, procedures, and practices. Training sponsored by the Lead Agency and Regional Grantees has improved the state trajectory of compliance on Indicator C8. It was evident that there continues to be a targeted need to improve training regarding transition in the areas of documenting steps and services to support the child and family, and appropriate timelines for a transition planning conference. The Lead Agency continues to emphasize adequate implementation and policy guidance to assist the Regional Grantees in developing appropriate procedures to address transition. In FFY 2006 (2006-2007) the Lead Agency developed procedural guidance with the transition workgroup and Regional Grantee leadership group to refine, clarify, and review transition guidance policies, procedures, and practices. FFY 2007 (2007-2008) was the first full year of implementation of the revised regional procedures and the uniform decision-making practices for transition from Part C to Part B and from Part C to other services required for all Regional Grantees. In spring 2008, it was determined that there was a need to revise the electronic IFSP templates, including the Transition Planning work page. The use of the revised IFSP form and required training are intended to enhance Service Coordinator timeliness and documentation of transition requirements. The revised template and training were launched in August 2008.

The on-line transition implementation, guidance, and procedures training, *Connecting the Dots*, was initiated in January 2007 and FFY 2007 (2007-2008) was the first full year of implementation. The Lead Agency worked with OSEP-funded technical assistance center, North Central Regional Resource Center (NCRRC), to assist in the development of the statewide training. The Lead Agency developed the training content addressing implementation guidance, transition policies and procedures including the use of the Transition Planning Work Page, written prior notice, consent, appropriate use of exit codes, and other systemic components specific to the state. The Lead Agency required that all service coordinators participate in the on-line training regarding transition implementation guidance and procedures.

During FFY 2007 (2007-2008) Regional Grantees analyzed data and improvement activities. One Regional Grantee that consistently achieved higher percentages in all three subcomponents (and achieved 100% compliance in FFY 2007 (2007-2008)) indicated that a specific set of guidelines unique to that Region, a transition toolbox for families, was utilized by Service Coordinators to produce the results of full compliance. After Lead Agency review, it was determined that the toolbox reflected best practice in transition requirements and implementation. In order to systematize the use of the Transition Toolbox for effective practice into a statewide effort, the Lead Agency worked with the transition workgroup. Regional Grantee leadership and Parent Educator Connection worked to refine the *Transition Toolbox: A Guide for Families* to be used by service coordinators

across the state. *A*pproved by the State Interagency Coordinating Council, Regional Grantee Leadership and Regional Grantee Special Education Directors, the *Transition Toolbox* was designated to be an individualized transition document to be used with families to enhance the transition process in order to plan and document steps and services, as well as support the family. Appropriate timelines for each step in the *Transition Toolbox* are delineated in the revised Service Coordinator Transition Checklist. The Lead Agency required all Regional Grantees to utilize the revised Transition Checklist and to train and implement the *Transition Toolbox* by December 2008.

During FFY 2007 (2007-2008), Regional Grantee Administrators (Area Education Agencies) made a commitment to develop and adopt uniform procedures for implementation of IDEA, Parts C and B. Committees were formed with membership from each Regional Grantee/AEA and Lead Agency staff to write the sections of the *AEA IDEA Part B and C Procedures Manual.* The Early ACCESS Procedures Manual Committee included all of the state Transition Workgroup's and Lead Agency's prior work: Transition Toolbox; revised Service Coordinator checklist; revised procedures, and technical assistance documents. The Manual will be launched in FFY 2008 (2008-2009) and is intended to improve consistency in implementation of IDEA across the state and an opportunity to clarify issues that the field has identified.

Technical Assistance. In 2006 (2006-2007) the statewide transition workgroup, that included representation from Regional Grantees, AEAs, LEAs, and parents; developed Part C to Part B and Part C to other services Transition Implementation Guidance. These documents delineated the responsibility of the Lead Agency, Regional Grantees, Signatory Agencies, AEAs, districts, IEP teams, IFSP teams, and parents in providing a smooth transition to Part B and other services thus clarifying appropriate practices. Transition Implementation Guidance was reviewed by the workgroup and the Early ACCESS Leadership Group in order to develop the Early ACCESS IFSP Procedures Manual to be released in FFY 2008 (2008-2009) and the new electronic IFSP templates released in August 2008.

Data for all three subcomponents for Indicator C8 show improvement over the past four years. However, two Regional Grantees decreased their percentage in C8(A) IFSP Transition Steps and Services and four Regional Grantees decreased their percentage in C8(C) Timely Transition Conference. With Regional Grantee slippage evidenced in these two subcomponents, the Lead Agency realized that it was necessary to require training to utilize the *Transition Toolbox: A Guide for Families* in order to assist service coordinators and families as they navigate the transition from Part C to Part B and Part C to other services.

The Lead Agency provided ongoing guidance to Regional Grantees regarding the Part C and Part B Implementation Guidance, and regional transition procedures during regularly scheduled meetings. Regional Grantees provided technical assistance to local providers regarding documentation, the use of checklists to monitor transition steps and services, as well as the use of the IFSP Transition Plan Page.

Improvements in FFY 07 (2007-2008) Indicator C8(A) performance (steps and services) were a result of this targeted training for all service coordinators. In Indicator C8(A), three out of ten Regional Grantees achieved 100% compliance and four out of ten moved closer to compliance. The state percentage also increased 3.8% to 97.8% and is within 2.2% of 100% compliance.

Ongoing monitoring and enforcement as needed. In response to requirements in the June 6, 2008, OSEP Response Table for Iowa's FFY 2006 (2006-2007) Annual Performance Report, the Lead Agency identified and addressed noncompliance with Indicator C8(A) and C8(C).

The Lead Agency monitored correction of non-compliance findings identified in FFY 2006 (2006-2007). The Regional Grantees were timely notified of noncompliance for subcomponents (A) and (C) within 30 days. Regional Grantees submitted a Corrective Action Plan to correct noncompliance within one year. The Corrective Action Plans were approved by the Lead Agency. All Regional

Grantees corrected noncompliance as soon as possible but in no case later than one year from the date they were notified of the finding(s). Verification of timely correction of non-compliance was based on review of updated data, including thorough review of the Evidence of Completion section of the Regional Compliance reports submitted to the Lead Agency. After technical assistance and corrective activities occurred, five IFSPs from each region per finding were reviewed and demonstrated compliance in implementation of the requirements.

The Lead Agency in its general supervision responsibilities required all Regional Grantees that did not meet the FFY 2006 (2006-2007) targets to submit improvement plans for FFY 2007 (2007-2008). All ten regions submitted FFY 2007 (2007-2008) Year-End Reports to document improvement activities for Indicator C8. The FFY 2007 (2007-2008) improvement activities, designed to match root causes, included implementation of new IFSP Transition Planning Page; service coordinator support meetings; on-going or frequent supervisory monitoring of transition IFSPs/file review; new technology to alert service coordinators of transition timelines for children on their caseload; newsletters for service coordinators and training of service coordinators employed by the Regional Grantees and Signatory Agencies. Two Regional Grantees that did not meet the target implemented a monitoring system to assist IFSP teams in setting timely transition conferences to meet compliance deadlines. All Regional Grantees implemented training through OSEP funded North Central Regional Resource Center, Connecting the Dots, and continued participation in the transition workgroup.

In FFY 2007 (2007-2008), the Lead Agency monitored implementation of transition requirements through file reviews with all Regional Grantees. Each region was provided a random sample of 10% of the active IFSP files or a minimum of 15 (N=295). Samples were taken from IFSP and Individualized Education Program (IEP) files of children exiting Part C and eligible for Part B or children exiting Part C for other services. Two sets of Self-Assessment File Review questions were utilized. One set of questions was used for children exiting Part C for other services and another set of questions for children exiting Part C and potentially eligible for Part B special education services. A total of 295 files were reviewed, 151 files for children transitioning from Part C to Part B and 144 files for children transitioning to other services. Notification to the AEA (Iowa's LEA) if a child is potentially eligible for Part B special education services occurs prior to the transition planning conference. The Lead Agency monitored notification through the revised Self-Assessment File Review procedures.

In FFY 2007 (2007-2008), the Lead Agency monitored regional performance in Indicator C8. One region was fully compliant in all three subcomponents. FFY 2007 (2007-2008) improvement activities assisted in increasing the percent for subcomponent (A) IFSP Transition Steps and Services for eight out of ten regions, with nine out of ten in substantial compliance. All regions were compliant for subcomponent (B) Notification to the LEA (AEA). For subcomponent (C) Timely Transition Conference, six out of ten regions made progress and one region maintained 100% compliance for the second consecutive year. Data analyses revealed three regions met the target, three were over 95%, and three experienced slippage. Of the seven regions who did not meet the state target, three of them showed improvement from the previous year, FFY 2006 (2006-2007). Analyses of slippage in the three regions revealed a personnel training issue and awareness that files pulled were of IFSPs conducted before improvement activities were implemented.

Procedural compliance monitoring for all transition components resulted in the Lead Agency notifying five Regional Grantees of six noncompliance findings based on FFY 2007 (2007-2008) I-STAR data. Noncompliance findings by indicator C8 subcomponents are described below.

> *(A) Steps and Services*. In FFY 2007 (2007-2008) the Lead Agency identified two noncompliance findings in one region regarding subcomponent C8(A) appropriate documentation of IFSP transition steps and services.
>
> *(B) Notification to the LEA*. In FFY 2007 (2007-2008) the Lead Agency did not identify any noncompliance findings regarding subcomponent C8(B), notification to the LEA.

(C) Transition Conference. In FFY 2007 (2007-2008) the Lead Agency identified four noncompliance findings in 5 regions regarding subcomponent C8(C), meeting transition conference timelines.

The Regional Grantees were timely notified of noncompliance findings identified in FFY 2007 (2007-2008) within 30 days. Regional Grantees submitted a Corrective Action Plan to correct noncompliance within one year. The Corrective Action Plan was approved by the Lead Agency. Results of corrections within one year will be reported in next year's FFY 2008 (2008-2009) Annual Performance Report.

The Lead Agency will continue to monitor progress for all regions through regularly scheduled data verification reports in FFY 2008 (2008-2009). The Lead Agency has required improvement plans for all regions that did not meet the target. Improvement activities for FFY 2008 (2008-2009) include Regional Grantee, Signatory Agency and private partner service coordinator meetings/trainings; increased monitoring of IFSPs; statewide implementation of the *Transition Toolbox*; statewide, required online training *Connecting the Dots*; technology to alert service coordinators of timelines for transition steps for children on their caseload; newsletters; and specific checklists for IFSP review.

Revisions, with Justification, to Proposed Targets/Improvement Activities/Timelines/ Resources for FFY 2008 (2008-2009):

In response to requirements in the June 6, 2008 OSEP Response Table for Iowa's FFY 2006 (2006-2007) Annual Performance Report, the Lead Agency reviewed its improvement activities and determined activities outlined in the State Performance Plan (February 1, 2008 version) were research-based, aligned with addressing underlying problems, demonstrated effective results and will continue as outlined in State Performance Plan. There are no revisions to Iowa's proposed targets, improvement activities, timelines or resources for FFY 2008 (2008-2009).

Part C State Annual Performance Report (APR) for FFY 2007 (2007-2008)

Overview of the Annual Performance Report Development:

The Part C Annual Performance Report (APR) was developed by Lead Agency staff reviewing baseline data, targets and improvement activities and drafting a report for each indicator. Once draft indicator reports were written, stakeholder groups provided input regarding these three components and comments were compiled. Stakeholder groups included the State Interagency Coordinating Council (Iowa Council for Early ACCESS), the Early ACCESS Executive Committee, Regional Grantee Administrators, Early ACCESS Leadership Group, and the Lead Agency Department of Education staff. See Overview of Annual Performance Report Development section for annual reporting to public.

Monitoring Priority: Effective General Supervision Part C / General Supervision

Indicator 9: General supervision system (including monitoring, complaints, hearings, etc.) identifies and corrects noncompliance as soon as possible but in no case later than one year from identification.

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(B) and 1442)

The following measurement for this indicator was a requirement of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) for both the six year State Performance Plan and each Annual Performance Report.

Measurement:

Percent of noncompliance corrected within one year of identification:

a. # of findings of noncompliance
b. # of corrections completed as soon as possible but in no case later than one year from identification.

Percent = [(b) divided by (a)] times 100.

For any noncompliance not corrected within one year of identification, describe what actions, including technical assistance and/or enforcement that the State has taken.

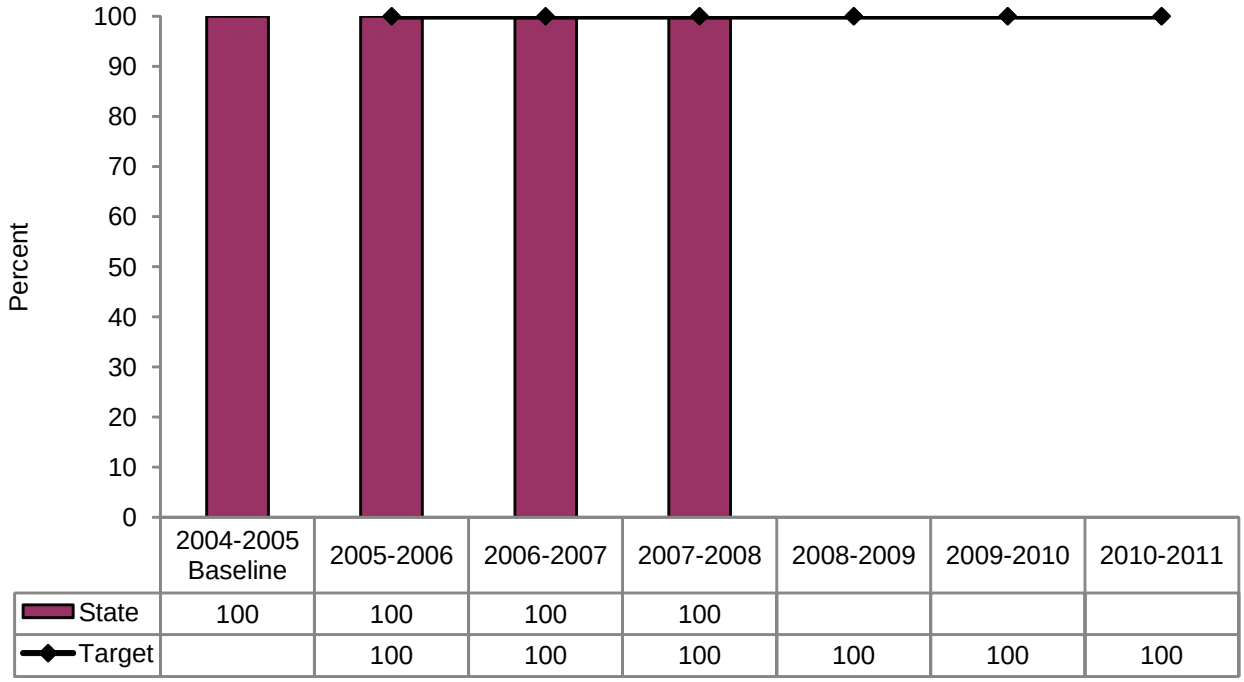
The percent of noncompliance corrected within one year of identification is a compliance indicator and OSEP designated the measurable and rigorous target at 100%. Each annual target of the six year State Performance Plan is set at 100%.

FFY	Measurable and Rigorous Target
2007 (2007-2008)	General supervision system (including monitoring, complaints, hearings, etc.) identifies and corrects noncompliance as soon as possible but in no case later than one year from identification 100% of the time.

Actual Target Data for FFY 2007 (2007-2008):

Figure C9.1 shows the state baseline and subsequent target data for correction of noncompliance within one year.

Figure C9.1. Percent of Correction of Noncompliance Within One Year.



Source. Part C Regional Monitoring Data-File Review, FFY 2004 (2004-2005) - FFY 2005 (2005-2006) and Iowa's System to Achieve Results (I-STAR), FFY 2006 (2006-2007) - FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

Table C9.1 includes all components of the OSEP C9 self-calculating worksheet for FFY 2006 (2006-2007) SPP/APR indicator noncompliance findings for which correction was verified no later than one year from identification.

Table C9.1

SPP and APR Indicator Noncompliance for Which Correction Was Verified No Later Than One Year from Identification.

Indicator/Indicator Clusters	General Supervision System Components	# of EIS Programs Issued Findings in FFY 2006 (7/1/06 to 6/30/07)	(a) # of Findings of noncompliance identified in FFY 2006 (7/1/06 to 6/30/07)	(b) # of Findings of noncompliance from (a) for which correction was verified no later than one year from identification
1. Percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who receive the early intervention services on their IFSPs in a timely manner.	Monitoring Activities: File Review/Local APR, Data Review, Desk Audit, or Other	0	0	NA

Indicator/Indicator Clusters	General Supervision System Components	# of EIS Programs Issued Findings in FFY 2006 (7/1/06 to 6/30/07)	(a) # of Findings of noncompliance identified in FFY 2006 (7/1/06 to 6/30/07)	(b) # of Findings of noncompliance from (a) for which correction was verified no later than one year from identification
2. Percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who primarily receive early intervention services in the home or community-based settings	Monitoring Activities: File Review/Local APR, Data Review, Desk Audit, or Other	0	0	NA
	Dispute Resolution: Complaints, Hearings	0	0	NA
3. Percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who demonstrate improved outcomes	Monitoring Activities: File Review/Local APR, Data Review, Desk Audit, or Other	0	0	NA
	Dispute Resolution: Complaints, Hearings	0	0	NA
4. Percent of families participating in Part C who report that early intervention services have helped the family	Monitoring Activities: File Review/Local APR, Data Review, Desk Audit, or Other	0	0	NA
	Dispute Resolution: Complaints, Hearings	0	0	NA
5. Percent of infants and toddlers birth to 1 with IFSPs	Monitoring Activities: File Review/Local APR, Data Review, Desk Audit, or Other	0	0	NA
6. Percent of infants and toddlers birth to 3 with IFSPs	Dispute Resolution: Complaints, Hearings	0	0	NA
7. Percent of eligible infants and toddlers with IFSPs for whom an evaluation and assessment and an initial IFSP meeting were conducted within Part C's 45-day timeline.	Monitoring Activities: File Review/Local APR, Data Review, Desk Audit, or Other	10	10	NA *
	Dispute Resolution: Complaints, Hearings	0	0	NA

* Verification of correction within one year ends June 2009 and will be reported in FFY 2008 Annual Performance Report to be submitted February 1, 2010.

Indicator/Indicator Clusters	General Supervision System Components	# of EIS Programs Issued Findings in FFY 2006 (7/1/06 to 6/30/07)	(a) # of Findings of noncompliance identified in FFY 2006 (7/1/06 to 6/30/07)	(b) # of Findings of noncompliance from (a) for which correction was verified no later than one year from identification
8. Percent of all children exiting Part C who received timely transition planning to support the child's transition to preschool and other appropriate community services by their third birthday including: A. IFSPs with transition steps and services;	Monitoring Activities: File Review/Local APR, Data Review, Desk Audit, or Other	7	7	7
	Dispute Resolution: Complaints, Hearings	0	0	NA
8. Percent of all children exiting Part C who received timely transition planning to support the child's transition to preschool and other appropriate community services by their third birthday including: B. Notification to LEA, if child potentially eligible for Part B	Monitoring Activities: File Review/Local APR, Data Review, Desk Audit, or Other	0	0	NA
	Dispute Resolution: Complaints, Hearings	0	0	NA
8. Percent of all children exiting Part C who received timely transition planning to support the child's transition to preschool and other appropriate community services by their third birthday including: C. Transition conference, if child potentially eligible for Part B.	Monitoring Activities: File Review/Local APR, Data Review, Desk Audit, or Other	9	9	9
	Dispute Resolution: Complaints, Hearings	0	0	NA
OTHER AREAS OF NONCOMPLIANCE: General Procedures	Monitoring Activities: File Review/Local APR, Data Review, Desk Audit, or Other	3	3	3
	Dispute Resolution: Complaints, Hearings	0	0	0
Sum the numbers down Column a and Column b			29	19
Percent of noncompliance corrected within one year of identification= Note: [column (b) sum divided by column (a) sum] times 100			**100**	

Source. Iowa Information Management System (IMS), FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and FFY 2007 (2007-2008) and Iowa's System to Achieve Results (I-STAR), FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

Table C9.2 describes the monitoring components used to determine results for reporting General Supervision Indicator C9 with the number of noncompliance findings and number of corrections within one year of notification of citation. All Regional Grantees are monitored annually regarding compliance with state regulations, interagency agreements, regional applications and annual reports, dispute resolution, Part C finances, and procedural compliance. Area Education Agency (AEA) Accreditation occurs annually in two the AEAs which serve as the Part C Regional Grantees (20% of AEAs on five year cycle). Medicaid audits in FFY 2007 (2007-2008) aligned with the AEA Accreditation cycle, which reduced the number of Regional Grantees monitored from three to two due to AEAs merging.

Table C9.2
Part C Monitoring Components with Number of Findings and Timely Corrections of Noncompliance.

	FFY 2006 (2006-2007)			FFY 2007 (2007-2008)		
Monitoring Component	**Number of Regions Monitored**	**Number of Noncompliance Citations**	**Number of Timely Corrections***	**Number of Regions Monitored**	**Number of Noncompliance Citations**	**Number of Timely Corrections****
State regulations	10	0	NA	10	0	NA
Interagency agreements	10	0	NA	10	0	NA
Regional applications and annual reports	10	0	NA	10	0	NA
Dispute resolution	10	0	NA	10	0	NA
Area Education Agency Accreditation	2	0	NA	2	0	NA
Fiscal audit:						
--Part C funds	10	0	NA	10	0	NA
--Medicaid	2	0	0	2	0	NA
Part C monitoring-- Self-assessment/ File Review	10	19	19	10	9	**

Source. Iowa's System to Achieve Results (I-STAR), FFY 2006 (2006-2007) - FFY 2007 (2007-2008) and Iowa Department of Education (Lead Agency) Regional Monitoring Reports.
Note. * Corrections from findings in FFY 2006 (2006-2007) occurred within one year.
** Data will be reported in FFY 2008 (2008-2009).

SPP Indicators –Compliance Indicators:

- Data for Indicator C1 were collected through the State's Information Management System (IMS). No noncompliance findings were identified in FFY 2006 (2006-2007) as the 100% target was obtained.

- Data for Indicator C7 were collected through the State's Information Management System (IMS). In response to requirements in the June 6, 2008 OSEP Response Table for Iowa's FFY 2006 (2006-2007) Annual Performance Report, the Lead Agency addressed noncompliance in Indicator C7. All ten regions did not meet the 100% target in FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and were required to analyze root causes and submitted FFY 2007 (2007-2008) improvement plans with researched-based activities. All 10 regions submitted year end reports to document improvement activities that were conducted to reach the state target for compliance in timely evaluations and initial IFSP meetings. FFY 2007 (2007-2008) Indicator C7 data indicate over 95% was achieved by all ten regions, ranging from 95.59% to 100%.

- Data for Indicator C8A, C8B and C8C were collected from the FFY 2006 (2006-2007) Regional Self-Assessment File Reviews (I-STAR). In response to requirements in the June 6, 2008 OSEP Response Table for Iowa's FFY 2006 (2006-2007) Annual Performance Report, the Lead Agency addressed noncompliance in Indicator C8.

  Sixteen findings related to transition were identified in FFY 2006 (2006-2007) through the self-assessment file review process. Regional Grantees were notified of the findings and required to submit corrective action plans, which were approved by the Lead Agency. Corrective activities were completed in all regions within the one-year timeline for correction. All correction plan activities for findings given in FFY 2006 (2006-2007) were completed and evidence of correction submitted to the state within one year of notification of noncompliance. After technical assistance and corrective activities occurred for each finding, five IFSPs from each cited region per finding were reviewed and demonstrated transition requirements were being implemented correctly. The Lead Agency notified the Regions that findings had been corrected. See Indicator C8 of this document for more explanation of Regional Grantee noncompliance findings and correction plans and activities.

Table C9.3 describes Iowa's SPP performance indicator targets, results, and data sources for FFY 2004 (2004-2005) through FFY 2007 (2007-2008). According to OSEP, each state is allowed to set targets from baseline data to improve results for children for these six performance indicators.

Table C9.3
SPP/APR Performance Indicators, Part C.

Indicator	FFY 2004 (2004-2005)	FFY 2005 (2005-2006)	FFY 2006 (2006-2007)	FFY 2007 (2007-2008)	State Target FFY 2007 (2007-2008)
C2: Natural environments	95%	96%	97.61%	98.40%	96.3%
C3: Early childhood outcomes	NA	Baseline	Baseline	Baseline	Baseline
C4: Family centered services	NA	A) 89.9% B) 89.2% C) 90.5%	A) 96.4% B) 95.9% C) 95.8%	A) 96.36% B) 95.05% C) 94.61%	A) 90.0% B) 89.5% C) 91.0%
C5: Child find 0 - 1	1.12%	1.22%	1.42%	1.54%	1.10%
C6: Child find 0 - 3	2.12%	2.33%	2.52%	2.69%	2.10%
C13: Mediations	0	0	0	0	NA*

Source. Iowa 618 Data Tables, FFY 2004 (2004-2005) - FFY 2007 (2007-2008); Part C Regional Monitoring Data-File Review, FFY 2004 (2004-2005) - FFY 2005 (2005-2006); and Iowa's System to Achieve Results (I-STAR) FFY 2006 (2006-2007) - FFY 2007 (2007-2008).
* *Note.* Iowa did not have to set a target as the number of mediations (0) is less than 10.

Discussion of Improvement Activities Completed and Explanation of Progress or Slippage that Occurred for FFY 2007 (2007-2008):

In response to requirements in the June 6, 2008, OSEP Response Table for Iowa's FFY 2006 (2006-2007) Annual Performance Report, the Lead Agency identified and addressed noncompliance with indicators C7, C8A and C8C. Although Iowa did not achieve targets for three compliance indicators for 45-day timeline and transition (C7, C8A and C8C), progress was made for the three indicators, achieving over 95% performance. Improvement activities were implemented with all Regional Grantees. After technical assistance and corrective activities occurred, five IFSPs from each region per finding were reviewed and demonstrated compliance with 45-day timeline and transition requirements. Refer to Indicators C7 and C8 for further discussion of improvement activities.

Several improvement activities were implemented to impact meeting the target for all indicators and address noncompliance. The activities included verification of data, analysis of data, analysis of policies, procedures, and practices, technical assistance, and ongoing monitoring.

Verification of data. A state monitoring and improvement data system was designed to enhance Iowa's federal requirement for monitoring of IDEA 2004 Part B and C by focusing on efficient and effective use of technology to make data-based decisions to improve specialized programs and services for Iowa's children. The contractor worked collaboratively with assigned state staff and all affected agencies in order to ensure the implementation of an effective IDEA Part B and C monitoring system. The data system, Iowa's System to Achieve Results (I-STAR), was used for Part C Self-Assessment File Reviews (procedural compliance and effective transition) and family surveys in FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

Data sources include, but are not limited to, 618 Data Tables and I-STAR. Data for 618 Data Tables and some SPP indicators are collected in Iowa's Information Management System (IMS), which employs a comprehensive verification process as described in C14. This multi-step process ensures the timely and accurate data required for all 618 Data Tables, FFY 2005 (2005-2006) State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Reports. Work continued on the development of future web-based Individualized Family Service Plan forms to ensure more consistent and efficient data collected for IMS and other data reporting and monitoring mechanisms. State monitoring consultants also gathered and analyzed data from Regional Grantees regarding Regional implementation of IDEA and SPP indicators.

All activities to correct noncompliance were completed within the one-year timeframe. All Regional Grantees submitted evidence of completion to the Lead Agency for their activities. Such evidence of success included meeting agendas, training materials, meeting sign-in forms, and monitoring file reviews. Verification of timely correction of non-compliance was based on review of updated data. After technical assistance and corrective activities occurred, five IFSPs from each region per finding were reviewed and demonstrated compliance with 45-day timeline and transition requirements.

Analysis of data to identify concerns. Data from all aspects of the general supervision system were analyzed to identify any noncompliance concerns:

- State regulations, policies, and procedures. No noncompliance was found in reviewing Regional policies and procedures.
- Interagency agreements. No noncompliance findings were identified in interagency agreements, effective dates, and their implementation.
- Regional applications and annual reports. No noncompliance findings were identified in applications and annual reports.
- Dispute resolution. Iowa did not have a complaint, due process hearing, or mediation during FFY 2007 (2007-2008).
- Area Education Agency accreditation. No noncompliance findings were identified in reviewing two AEAs.
- Fiscal audit—Part C funds. No noncompliance findings were identified in reviewing Regional Applications and Annual Reports for appropriate use of Part C funds.
- Fiscal audit—Medicaid. Medicaid Good Standing Reviews were completed in two Regions in FFY 2007 (2007-2008) with no findings identified. No findings of non-compliance were identified in FFY 2006 (2006-2007).
- Part C monitoring of Regional Grantee implementation of IDEA. Procedural compliance was monitored utilizing Regional Self-Assessment File Reviews. Findings were identified and Regional Grantees received timely notification. Details are provided throughout this indicator.

Table C9.4 describes Iowa's SPP compliance indicator targets, results, and data sources for FFY 2004 (2004-2005), FFY 2005 (2005-2006), FFY 2006 (2006-2007), and FFY 2007 (2007-2008). Targets were set at 100% by OSEP, since these are indicators considered important for all children to attain or receive benefit. These data were analyzed by the Lead Agency to form a basis for the discussion of improvement, progress and slippage.

Table C9.4

SPP Compliance Indicators, Part C for FFY 2004 (2004-2005) - FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

Indicator	State Target	FFY 2004 (2004-2005)	FFY 2005 (2005-2006)	FFY 2006 (2006-2007)	FFY 2007 (2007-2008)
C1: Timely services	100%	68.8%	100%	100%	100%
C7: Timely evaluation and assessment	100%	89% with family reason included	87% with family reason included	90.90% with family reason included	97.66% with family reason included
C8: Effective transition C to B					
A. IFSP transition steps/services	100%	68%	87%	94%	97.96%
B. Notification to AEA (LEA)	100%	98%	96%	100%	100%
C. Timely transition conference	100%	46%	87%	91%	95.25%
C9: General supervision (Monitoring)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
C10: Complaints (resolved within 60 days)	100%	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
C11: Hearings (adjudicated within 30 days)	100%	NA**	NA**	NA**	NA**
C12: Resolution sessions	100%	NA***	NA***	NA***	NA***
C13: Mediations	NA****	NA****	NA****	NA****	NA****
C14: Timely and accurate data	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source. Iowa Information Management System (IMS); Iowa's System to Achieve Results (I-STAR); and U.S. Department of Education; Office of Special Education Programs, Data Analysis System (DANS), 618 Data Tables; FFY 2004 (2004-2005) - FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

Note. * Iowa did not have a complaint filed.

** Iowa did not have a request for due process hearing.

*** Iowa follows Part C due process procedures.

**** Iowa did not conduct a mediation

In FFY 2007 (2007-2008) Regional Self-Assessment File Reviews were completed for procedural monitoring in all 10 Early ACCESS Regions. Each Region reviewed 10% of all files or a minimum of 15 files for general procedural compliance. Each Region also reviewed 10% or a minimum of 15 files (or all files if N<15) for two transition categories: 1) children eligible for Part B services with Exit Code of Eligible for Part B (EFB); and 2) children not eligible for Part B with Exit Codes of Part B Not Determined (BND), Not Eligible for Part B services—referral to other programs (EOP), and Not Eligible for Part B Services—no referral to other programs (ENR). The same OSEP approved sampling plan for the SPP baseline data was used for the APR indicator data.

Table C9.5 describes the Regional Self-Assessment File Review noncompliance findings for FFY 2007 (2007-2008) for IFSP General File Review and Transition File Review.

Table C9.5
Regional Grantee Noncompliance Citations —General File Review

Regional Grantee	Noncompliance Citations General File Review	Noncompliance Citations Transition File Review	Total
1	0	0	0
7	0	0	0
8	0	0	0
9	0	1	1
10	1	1	2
11	1	1	2
12	0	0	0
13	0	1	1
14	0	0	0
15	1	2	3
TOTAL	3	6	9

Source. Iowa's System to Achieve Results (I-STAR), FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

Although 100% targets have not been met for all compliance indicators, improvement was shown for 45-day timeline and transition (C7, C8A and C8C), achieving over 95% performance. In addition, there were no complaints filed or due process hearing requests. Overall, the number of noncompliance findings decreased from 19 in FFY 2006 (2006-2007) to 9 in FFY 2007 (2007-2008). Current activities have been effective in impacting compliance indicators and, therefore, will be continued.

The Lead Agency analyzed the overall effectiveness of its general supervision system, including monitoring, technical assistance and correction activities.

- Aligned with IDEA Reauthorization, which focused on results for children and families, Iowa exceeded state targets for all four APR performance Indicators C2, C4, C5, and C6. Indicator C3 remained an SPP indicator in FFY 2007 (2007-2008).
- Iowa maintained meeting 100% target levels for six of nine compliance indicators that had targets (C1, C8B, C9, C10, C11 and C14. Indicators C12 and C13 did not have targets).
- Progress in the three remaining compliance indicators resulted in over 95% performance.
    - Indicator C7 Timely Evaluations and Initial IFSP meetings went from 90.19% to 97.66%, a 6.76% increase from last year.
    - Compliance Indicator C8 Effective Transition showed progress from last year in (A) 94.00 to 97.96%, a 3.76% increase and (C) 91.00% to 95.25%, a 4.25% increase. C8(B) achieving 100% compliance for two consecutive years.
- There were no complaints, hearings or mediations during FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

As a result of this analysis, Iowa acknowledges and has prioritized in FFY 2008 (2008-2009) improvement and correction activities focused on reaching compliance in Indicators C7, C8(A) and C8(C) and maintaining compliance and performance in all other indicators.

Analysis of policies, procedures, and practices. Policies, procedures, and practices were reviewed for Regional Grantee applications. New transition procedures that aligned both Part C and B transition regulations were implemented as further described in Indicator C8. Ongoing review of IMS data entry practice occurred during monthly meetings.

During FFY 2007 (2007-2008), Regional Grantees Administrators (Area Education Agencies) made a commitment to develop and adopt uniform procedures for implementation of IDEA, Parts C and B. Committees were formed with membership from each Regional Grantee (AEA) and Lead Agency staff to write portions of the AEA IDEA Part B and C Procedures Manual. The Manual will be launched in FFY 2008 (2008-2009) and is intended to improve consistency in implementation of IDEA across the state and an opportunity to clarify issues that the field has identified.

The Lead Agency worked with a statewide transition workgroup, Regional Grantee leadership and Parent Educator Connection to develop the *Transition Toolbox: A Guide for Families. A*pproved by the State Interagency Coordinating Council, Regional Grantee Liaisons, Regional Grantee Special Education Directors, the *Transition Toolbox* is designed to be an individualized transition document to be used with families to enhance the transition process in order to document steps and services as well as support the family. Appropriate timelines for each step in the *Transition Toolbox* are delineated in the revised Transition Checklist. The Lead Agency required all Regional Grantees to utilize the revised Transition Checklist and to train and implement the *Transition Toolbox* by December 2008.

Technical assistance. State staff continued to support regional and Signatory Agency implementation of state-developed trainings, guidance documents, and technical assistance to assist Regional Grantees and service providers regarding implementation of IDEA 2004 requirements. Specific technical assistance was provided to the Regional Grantees for areas of noncompliance in 45-day timeline and transition as described in Indicators C7 and C8. Lead Agency monitoring consultants maintained close contact with those Regional Grantees with noncompliance findings and reviewed their data throughout the year to ensure that corrective plans were implemented and that non-compliance was timely corrected.

Technical assistance developed by the Lead Agency and provided to the Regional Grantees focused on the importance of evaluation and assessment of infants and toddlers and an initial IFSP meeting within the 45-day timelines, the awareness of all regions needing to meet the target of 100%, the need for clear documentation on the IFSP when the referral was received and when the IFSP was written, and understanding the data entry system using the IMS. Guidelines for evaluation and assessment were drafted and implemented statewide by practitioners, administrators, and Signatory Agencies during FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

As a result of FFY 2006 (2006-2007) I-STAR data, it became apparent that the Lead Agency needed to improve training regarding transition in the areas of documenting steps and services to support the child and family, and appropriate timelines for a transition planning conference. The Lead Agency needed to emphasize adequate implementation and policy guidance to assist the Regional Grantees in developing appropriate procedures to address transition. The Lead Agency developed procedures for Regional Grantees in partnership with the transition workgroup. These procedures provided for the implementation of statewide decision-making practices for transition from Part C to Part B. The Lead Agency worked with the North Central Regional Resource Center (NCRRC) to develop online training regarding transition procedures using Web CT for Service Coordinators and IFSP and IEP teams. The online training began early spring 2007 and was fully implemented by December 2007. The Lead Agency provided professional development to Service Coordinators under the Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) as

described in Indicator C4. Training Module III included updated information about transition, evaluation, and assessment procedures and practices for Service Coordinators.

The competency based Service Coordination Training Program was implemented for a second year statewide. The five service coordination modules were based on federal statute, research, and best practice. These modules focused on effective service coordination, incorporating state policies and procedures, and best practices regarding timely service provision. An interagency pool of trainers was designated by Regional Grantee Administration and Signatory Agencies to implement the Service Coordination training. These trainers attended intensive three-day Approved Trainer sessions for each module of training delivered. Trainers provided module trainings in FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and FFY 2007 (2007-2008) throughout the state. Eighty-eight percent (88%) of all 317 service coordinators in the state completed the requirements of the training program. Iowa anticipates that when data collection occurs in FFY 2008 (2008-2009), the other 22% will attend trainings as scheduled alternately throughout the regions during FFY 2008 (2008-2009) and all current service coordinators will meet service coordinator competency training requirements.

During the FFY 2007 (2007-2008), the Lead Agency also provided technical assistance for all monitoring priorities, including: providing training/professional development; improving data collection; improving systems administration and monitoring; improving collaboration/coordination; clarifying/examining policies and procedures; providing technical assistance guidance; and increasing FTEs. Activities pertinent to each indicator are described in each Indicator of this Annual Performance Report. Lead Agency analysis of all progress and slippage of all indicators and their respective SPP improvement activities revealed Iowa's efforts are having a positive effect on the progress toward meeting all targets and strengthening accuracy of data. The Lead Agency concluded SPP Improvement Activities should proceed as planned.

Ongoing monitoring and enforcement as needed. In response to requirements in the June 6, 2008, OSEP Response Table for Iowa's FFY 2006 (2006-2007) Annual Performance Report, the Lead Agency identified and addressed noncompliance with indicators C7, C8A and C8C. All Regional Grantees are monitored annually regarding compliance with state regulations, interagency agreements, regional applications and annual reports, dispute resolution, Part C finances, and procedural compliance. Area Education Agency (AEA) Accreditation occurs in two of the AEAs which serve as the Part C Regional Grantees (20% of 10 AEAs on five-year cycle). Medicaid audits aligned with AEA Accreditation in FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

In FFY 2006 (2006-2007), the Lead Agency issued letters to 9 of 10 Regional Grantees that required Corrective Action Plans based on noncompliance citations. The plans submitted were approved by the Lead Agency. The Regional Grantees provided training to staff on required compliance correction. Regional Grantees submitted evidence of success to demonstrate that all activities to correct noncompliance had been completed within one year. End-year file reviews were also completed to ensure correct implementation of regulatory requirements after corrective activities were developed and implemented. All regions demonstrated correction in the five file reviews pulled per finding per region no later than one year of notification of findings. Notification of correction was made by the Lead Agency. Regions that did not meet FFY 2006 (2006-2007) SPP/APR targets were required to submit improvement plans for FFY 2007 (2007-2008). Each region submitted year end reports to document improvement activities that were conducted to reach and/or maintain state targets in all indicators.

For FFY 2007 (2007-2008), 5 of 10 Regional Grantees required Corrective Action Plans based on nine procedural noncompliance findings. The plans submitted were approved by the Lead Agency. Monitoring by state monitoring consultants will continue to measure progress toward meeting noncompliance within the one-year timeframe. No enforcement actions were needed.

According to the FFY 2007 (2007-2008) Regional Grantee Year End Reports, all regions engaged in a number of targeted activities to improve performance in both compliance and performance indicators. Year-End Reports and analysis of new data each year assists the Lead Agency in determining future technical assistance and the effectiveness of past assistance. Emphasis was placed on valid and reliable data as it related to each of the indicators.

Revisions, with Justification, to Proposed Targets/Improvement Activities/Timelines/ Resources for FFY 2008 (2008-2009):

In response to requirements in the June 6, 2008 OSEP Response Table for Iowa's FFY 2006 (2006-2007) Annual Performance Report, the Lead Agency reviewed its improvement activities and determined activities outlined in the State Performance Plan (February 1, 2008 version) were research-based, aligned with addressing underlying problems, demonstrated effective results and will continue as outlined in State Performance Plan. There are no revisions to Iowa's proposed targets, improvement activities, timelines or resources for FFY 2008 (2008-2009).

Part C State Annual Performance Report (APR) for FFY 2007 (2007-2008)

Overview of the Annual Performance Report Development:

The Part C Annual Performance Report (APR) was developed by Lead Agency staff reviewing baseline data, targets and improvement activities and drafting a report for each indicator. Once draft indicator reports were written, stakeholder groups provided input regarding these three components and comments were compiled. Stakeholder groups included the State Interagency Coordinating Council (Iowa Council for Early ACCESS), Regional Grantee Administrators, Early ACCESS Leadership Group, and the Lead Agency Department of Education staff. See Overview of Annual Performance Report Development section for annual reporting to public.

Monitoring Priority: Effective General Supervision Part C / General Supervision

Indicator 10: Percent of signed written complaints with reports issued that were resolved within 60-day timeline or a timeline extended for exceptional circumstances with respect to a particular complaint.

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(B) and 1442)

The following measurement for this indicator was a requirement of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) for both the six year State Performance Plan and each Annual Performance Report.

Measurement:
Percent = (1.1(b) + 1.1(c)) divided by (1.1) times 100.

This target was set at 100% by OSEP since this is considered a compliance indicator important for all children to attain or receive benefit.

FFY	Measurable and Rigorous Target
2007 (2007-2008)	100% of signed written complaints with reports issued were resolved within a 60-day timeline, or a timeline extended for exceptional circumstances with respect to a particular complaint.

Actual Target Data for FFY 2007 (2007-2008):
There were no written complaints filed with the Lead Agency in FFY 2007 (2007-2008); therefore, the target is not applicable. Please see Table 4 *Report of Dispute Resolution under Part C of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2007-08* in Appendix 1.

Discussion of Improvement Activities Completed and Explanation of Progress or Slippage that Occurred for FFY 2006 (2006-2007):

There were no written complaints filed with the Lead Agency in the baseline year, FFY 2005 (2005-2006), FFY 2006 (2006-2007), or FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

Iowa continued to work on several improvement activities to impact meeting the target for this indicator. The Lead Agency and Regional Grantees continued their efforts regarding parental rights through Service Coordination training and technical assistance.

Verification of data. Data on the provision of procedural safeguards were obtained from Regional Grantee Self-Assessment File Reviews. The file review process was transitioned to the I-STAR (Iowa's System to Achieve Results) data system in FFY 2006 (2006-2007). This internet data base allows for direct data entry into the database thereby removing one level of possible data entry error.

Analysis of data to identify concerns and effectiveness. The Lead Agency reviewed FFY 2007 (2007-2008) data regarding the provision of parental rights. All 10 Regional Grantee file reviews showed procedural safeguards were reviewed with families at time of evaluation. There was one finding identified regarding provision of procedural safeguards due to not reviewing procedural safeguards at annual review time.

The Lead Agency continued to review the General Supervision System with mediators and Administrative Law Judges (ALJs). Results of the National Center for Special Education Accountability Monitoring (NCSEAM) Family Survey were studied (Indicator C4(A) Family Centered Services). Results for FFY 2007 (2007-2008) showed that 96.36% of families surveyed reported that early intervention services have helped the family know their rights. This was an increase of 1.76% in FFY 2006 (2006-2007).

Analysis of policies, procedures and practices. All Regional Grantees were required to have their procedures approved by the Lead Agency, which included procedural safeguards. The Lead Agency's review assured that procedures met federal requirements and state rules.

During FFY 2007 (2007-2008), Regional Grantees Administrators (Area Education Agencies) made a commitment to develop and adopt uniform procedures for implementation of IDEA, Parts C and B. Committees were formed with membership from each Regional Grantee (AEA) and Lead Agency staff to write the portions of the *AEA IDEA Part B and C Procedures Manual.* The Manual will be launched in FFY 2008 (2008-2009) and is intended to improve consistency in implementation of IDEA across the state and an opportunity to clarify questions that the field has identified.

Technical assistance. The Lead Agency continued to support a Comprehensive System of Professional Development. In FFY 2005 (2005-2006) a *Service Coordination Competency Training,* which included five modules of competency based training, was developed. The service coordination training modules were based on Federal Statute and Regulations, research, and best practice and focused on one of the five identified competencies required to be an effective service coordinator. Modules 1 through 5 were developed and successfully piloted to target new and inexperienced service coordinators. The modules incorporated state policies, procedures and best practices regarding referrals, evaluation and assessment of infants and toddlers within 45-day timelines, IFSP provisions, coordinating community resources and infant and toddler development. Module 1 – Federal, State and Local

Rules, Regulations, and Procedures for the Early ACCESS system specifically addressed parental rights and has been accessed by service coordinators since FFY 2006 (2006-2007).

The Signatory Agencies in the Early ACCESS system participated in the ongoing staff development activities for providers of early intervention services. Training was delivered statewide for all modules and approved interagency trainers were trained (Train the Trainer sessions) for all of the modules. This training program was augmented by various in-services, workshops and conferences where providers learned about innovative practices. The *Service Coordination Competency Training Program* was also made available on the Iowa Department of Education website. This enables infusion of Family Centered practices into curricula across disciplines at all community colleges, colleges and universities statewide. An interagency pool of trainers designated by Regional Grantee Administration and Signatory Agencies implemented the Service Coordination training. These trainers attended intensive three-day Approved Trainer sessions for each module of training delivered. Trainers provided module trainings in FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and FFY 2007 (2007-2008) throughout the state. Eighty-eight percent (88%) of all 317 service coordinators in the state completed the requirements of the training program. Iowa anticipates that when data collection occurs in FFY 2008 (2008-2009), the other 22% will attend trainings as scheduled alternately throughout the regions during FFY 2008 (2008-2009) and all current service coordinators will meet service coordinator competency training requirements.

The Parent Educator Connection (PEC), a program with designated coordinators in each Region who provide support of the partnership between service providers and families to strengthen outcomes for children and families, has targeted support to families whose children are transitioning from Part C to Part B, increasing parents' understanding of their rights.

In FFY 2007 (2007-2008), the Lead Agency reactivated the statewide transition workgroup to develop the *Transition Toolbox: A Guide for Families. A*pproved by the State Interagency Coordinating Council, Regional Grantee Liaisons and the Regional Grantee Special Education Directors, the *Transition Toolbox* is designed to be an individualized transition document to be used with families to enhance the transition process in order to document steps and services as well as support the family. Appropriate timelines for each step in the *Transition Toolbox* are delineated in the revised Transition Checklist. The Lead Agency requires all Regional Grantees to utilize the revised Transition Checklist and to train and implement the *Transition Toolbox* during FFY 2008 (2008-2009).

Ongoing monitoring and enforcement as needed. The provision of parental rights is monitored annually through Regional Grantee Self-Assessment File Reviews. There were no findings identified in FFY 2006 (2006-2007) regarding procedural safeguards reviewed with families at required times.

All file reviews in FFY 2007 (2007-2008) showed procedural safeguards were reviewed with families at time of evaluation. There was one finding identified regarding provision of procedural safeguards in FFY 2007 (2007-2008), due to not reviewing procedural safeguards at annual review time. The Regional Grantees were timely notified of the noncompliance finding within 30 days. The Regional Grantee submitted a Corrective Action Plan to correct noncompliance within one year. The Corrective Action Plan was approved by the Lead Agency. Correction will be reported in FFY 2008 (2008-2009).

Revisions, with Justification, to Proposed Targets/Improvement Activities/Timelines/ Resources for FFY 2008 (2008-2009):

There are no revisions to Iowa's proposed targets, improvement activities, timelines, or resources for FFY 2008 (2008-2009). In order to maintain target performance, the Lead Agency will continue to implement activities outlined in the State Performance Plan.

Part C State Annual Performance Report (APR) for FFY 2007 (2007-2008)

Overview of the Annual Performance Report Development:

The Part C Annual Performance Report (APR) was developed by Lead Agency staff reviewing baseline data, targets and improvement activities and drafting a report for each indicator. Once draft indicator reports were written, stakeholder groups provided input regarding these three components and comments were compiled. Stakeholder groups included the State Interagency Coordinating Council (Iowa Council for Early ACCESS), Regional Grantee Administrators, Early ACCESS Leadership Group, and the Lead Agency Department of Education staff. See Overview of Annual Performance Report Development section for annual reporting to public.

Monitoring Priority: Effective General Supervision Part C / General Supervision

Indicator 11: Percent of fully adjudicated due process hearing requests that were fully adjudicated within the applicable timeline.

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(B) and 1442)

The following measurement for this indicator was a requirement of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) for both the six year State Performance Plan and each Annual Performance Report.

Measurement:
Percent = (3.2(a) + 3.2(b)) divided by (3.2) times 100.

This target was set at 100% by OSEP since this is considered a compliance indicator for all children to attain or receive benefit.

FFY	Measurable and Rigorous Target
2007 2007-2008	100% of fully adjudicated due process hearing requests were fully adjudicated within the 30-day timeline.

Actual Target Data for FFY 2007 (2007-2008):
There were no due process hearing requests received or held in FFY 2007 (2007-2008); therefore, the target is not applicable. Please see Table 4 *Report of Dispute Resolution under Part C of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2007-08* in Appendix 1.

Discussion of Improvement Activities Completed and Explanation of Progress or Slippage that Occurred for FFY 2007 (2007-2008):
There were no due process hearing requests received or held in the baseline year, FFY 2005 (2005-2006), FFY 2006 (2006-2007), or FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

Iowa did not have a written complaint filed. The Lead Agency continued to work on several improvement activities to impact meeting the target for this indicator. The Lead Agency and Regional Grantees continued their efforts regarding parental rights through Service Coordination training and technical assistance.

Verification of data. Data on the provision of procedural safeguards were obtained from Regional Grantee Self-Assessment File Reviews. The file review process was transitioned to the I-STAR (Iowa's System to Achieve Results) data system in FFY 2006 (2006-2007). This internet data base allows for direct data entry into the database thereby removing one level of possible data entry error.

Analysis of data to identify concerns and effectiveness. The Lead Agency reviewed FFY 2007 (2007-2008) data regarding the provision of parental rights. All 10 Regional Grantee file reviews showed procedural safeguards were reviewed with families at time of evaluation. There was one finding identified regarding provision of procedural safeguards due to not reviewing procedural safeguards at annual review time.

The Lead Agency continued to review the General Supervision System with mediators and Administrative Law Judges (ALJs). Results of the National Center for Special Education Accountability Monitoring (NCSEAM) Family Survey were studied (Indicator C4(A) Family Centered Services). Results for FFY 2007 (2007-2008) showed that 96.36% of families surveyed reported that early intervention services have helped the family know their rights. This was an increase of 1.76% in FFY 2006 (2006-2007).

Analysis of policies, procedures and practices. All Regional Grantees were required to have their procedures approved by the Lead Agency, which included procedural safeguards. The Lead Agency's review assured that procedures met federal requirements and state rules.

During FFY 2007 (2007-2008), Regional Grantees Administrators (Area Education Agencies) made a commitment to develop and adopt uniform procedures for implementation of IDEA, Parts C and B. Committees were formed with membership from each Regional Grantee (AEA) and Lead Agency staff to write the portions of the *AEA IDEA Part B and C Procedures Manual.* The Manual will be launched in FFY 2008 (2008-2009) and is intended to improve consistency in implementation of IDEA across the state and an opportunity to clarify questions that the field has identified.

Technical assistance. The Lead Agency continued to support a Comprehensive System of Professional Development. In FFY 2005 (2005-2006) a *Service Coordination Competency Training,* which included five modules of competency based training, was developed. The service coordination training modules were based on Federal Statute and Regulations, research, and best practice and focused on one of the five identified competencies required to be an effective service coordinator. Modules 1 through 5 were developed and successfully piloted to target new and inexperienced service coordinators. The modules incorporated state policies, procedures and best practices regarding referrals, evaluation and assessment of infants and toddlers within 45-day timelines, IFSP provisions, coordinating community resources and infant and toddler development. Module 1 – Federal, State and Local Rules, Regulations, and Procedures for the Early ACCESS system specifically addressed parental rights and has been accessed by service coordinators since FFY 2006 (2006-2007).

The Signatory Agencies in the Early ACCESS system participated in the ongoing staff development activities for providers of early intervention services. Training was delivered statewide for all modules and approved interagency trainers were trained (Train the Trainer sessions) for all of the modules. This training program was augmented by various in-services, workshops and conferences where providers learned about innovative practices. The *Service Coordination Competency Training Program* was also made available on the Iowa Department of Education website. This enables infusion of Family Centered practices into curricula across disciplines at all community colleges, colleges and universities statewide. This training was developed to assure that service coordinators have the core competencies needed to provide high quality services to families. An interagency pool of trainers designated by Regional Grantee

Administration and Signatory Agencies implemented the Service Coordination training. These trainers attended intensive three-day Approved Trainer sessions for each module of training delivered. Trainers provided module trainings in FFY 2006 (2006-2007) and FFY 2007 (2007-2008) throughout the state. Eighty-eight percent (88%) of all 317 service coordinators in the state completed the requirements of the training program. Iowa anticipates that when data collection occurs in FFY 2008 (2008-2009), the other 22% will attend trainings as scheduled alternately throughout the regions during FFY 2008 (2008-2009) and all current service coordinators will meet service coordinator competency training requirements.

The Parent Educator Connection (PEC), a program with designated coordinators in each Region who provide support of the partnership between service providers and families to strengthen outcomes for children and families, has targeted support to families whose children are transitioning from Part C to Part B, increasing parents' understanding of their rights.

In FFY 2007 (2007-2008), the Lead Agency reactivated the statewide transition workgroup to develop the *Transition Toolbox: A Guide for Families. A*pproved by the State Interagency Coordinating Council, Regional Grantee Liaisons, and the Regional Grantee Special Education Directors, the *Transition Toolbox* is designed to be an individualized transition document to be used with families to enhance the transition process in order to document steps and services as well as support the family. Appropriate timelines for each step in the *Transition Toolbox* are delineated in the revised Transition Checklist. The Lead Agency requires all Regional Grantees to utilize the revised Transition Checklist and to train and implement the *Transition Toolbox* during FFY 2008 (2008-2009).

Ongoing monitoring and enforcement as needed. The provision of parental rights is monitored annually through Regional Grantee Self-Assessment File Reviews. There were no findings identified in FFY 2006 (2006-2007) regarding procedural safeguards reviewed with families at required times.

All file reviews in FFY 2007 (2007-2008) showed procedural safeguards were reviewed with families at time of evaluation. There was one finding identified regarding provision of procedural safeguards in FFY 2007 (2007-2008), due to not reviewing procedural safeguards at annual review time. The Regional Grantees were timely notified of the noncompliance finding within 30 days. The Regional Grantee submitted a Corrective Action Plan to correct noncompliance within one year. The Corrective Action Plan was approved by the Lead Agency. Correction will be reported in FFY 2008 (2008-2009).

Revisions, with Justification, to Proposed Targets/Improvement Activities/Timelines/ Resources for FFY 2008 (2008-2009):

There are no revisions to Iowa's proposed targets, improvement activities, timelines, or resources for FFY 2008 (2008-2009). In order to maintain target performance, the Lead Agency will continue to implement activities outlined in the State Performance Plan.

Part C State Annual Performance Report (APR) for FFY 2007 (2007-2008)

Overview of the Annual Performance Report Development:

The Part C Annual Performance Report (APR) was developed by Lead Agency staff reviewing baseline data, targets and improvement activities and drafting a report for each indicator. Once draft indicator reports were written, stakeholder groups provided input regarding these three components and comments were compiled. Stakeholder groups included the State Interagency Coordinating Council (Iowa Council for Early ACCESS), Regional Grantee Administrators, Early ACCESS Leadership Group, and the Lead Agency Department of Education staff. See Overview of Annual Performance Report Development section for annual reporting to public.

Monitoring Priority: Effective General Supervision Part C / General Supervision

Indicator 12: Percent of hearing requests that went to resolution sessions that were resolved through resolution session settlement agreements (applicable if Part B due process procedures are adopted).

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(B) and 1442)

Measurement: Percent = (3.1(a) divided by 3.1) times 100.

FFY	Measurable and Rigorous Target
2007 (2007-2008)	Not applicable.

Actual Target Data for FFY 2007 (2007-2008):

Not applicable as Iowa has adopted the Part C due process procedures under 34 CFR §303.420.

Part C State Annual Performance Report (APR) for FFY 2007 (2007-2008)

Overview of the Annual Performance Report Development:

The Part C Annual Performance Report (APR) was developed by Lead Agency staff reviewing baseline data, targets and improvement activities and drafting a report for each indicator. Once draft indicator reports were written, stakeholder groups provided input regarding these three components and comments were compiled. Stakeholder groups included the State Interagency Coordinating Council (Iowa Council for Early ACCESS), Regional Grantee Administrators, Early ACCESS Leadership Group, and the Lead Agency Department of Education staff. See Overview of Annual Performance Report Development section for annual reporting to public.

Monitoring Priority: Effective General Supervision Part C / General Supervision

Indicator 13: Percent of mediations held that resulted in mediation agreements.

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(B) and 1442)

The following measurement for this indicator was a requirement of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) for both the six year State Performance Plan and each Annual Performance Report.

Measurement:
Percent = (2.1(a)(i) + 2.1(b)(i)) divided by (2.1) times 100.

This target was considered a performance indicator by OSEP, meaning that each state was allowed to set their own target from baseline data to improve results for children.

FFY	Measurable and Rigorous Target
2007 (2007-2008)	Not applicable

Actual Target Data for FFY 2007 (2007-2008):

There were no mediations requested and no mediations held in FFY 2007 (2007-2008). As indicated by the Office of Special Education Programs letter in response to Iowa's Annual Performance Report (submitted 2-1-06), Iowa has removed the target and improvement activities related to mediations since the number did not reach 10 or greater. Please see Table 4 *Report of Dispute Resolution under Part C of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2007-08* in Appendix 1.

Part C State Annual Performance Report (APR) for FFY 2007 (2007-2008)

Overview of the Annual Performance Report Development:

The Part C Annual Performance Report (APR) was developed by Lead Agency staff reviewing baseline data, targets and improvement activities and drafting a report for each indicator. Once draft indicator reports were written, stakeholder groups provided input regarding these three components and comments were compiled. Stakeholder groups included the State Interagency Coordinating Council (Iowa Council for Early ACCESS), Regional Grantee Administrators, Early ACCESS Leadership Group, and the Lead Agency Department of Education staff. See Overview of Annual Performance Report Development section for annual reporting to public.

Monitoring Priority: Effective General Supervision Part C / General Supervision

Indicator 14: State reported data (618 and State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report) are timely and accurate.

(20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(B))

The following measurement for this indicator was a requirement of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) for both the six year State Performance Plan and each Annual Performance Report.

Measurement:

State reported data, including 618 data and annual performance reports, are:

A. Submitted on or before due dates (February 1 for child count, including race and ethnicity, settings, and Annual Performance Report; and November 1 for exiting and dispute resolution).
B. Accurate (describe mechanisms for ensuring error free, consistent, valid and reliable data and evidence that these standards are met).

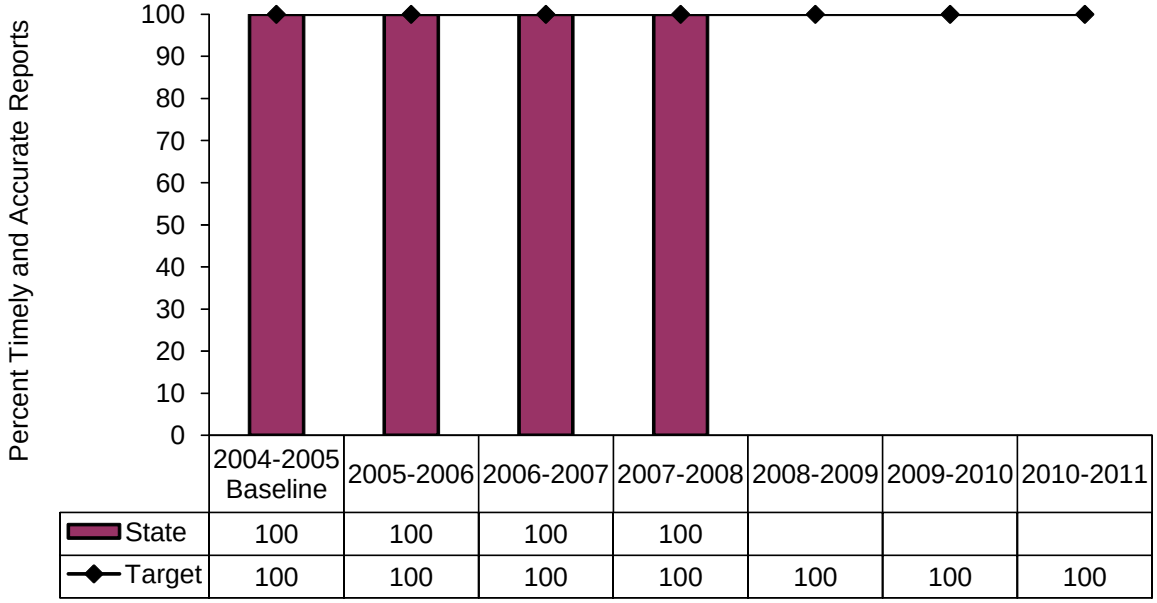
The provision of timely and accurate data (618 and State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report) is a compliance indicator and OSEP designated the measurable and rigorous target at 100%. Each annual target of the six year State Performance Plan is set at 100%.

FFY	Measurable and Rigorous Target
2007 (2007-2008)	**State reported data (618 and State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report) are timely and accurate 100% of the time.**

Actual Target Data for FFY 2007 (2007-2008):

The Lead Agency monitored the timeliness and accurateness of FFY 2007 (2007-2008) data needed for the state Annual Performance Report and 618 Data Tables through ongoing verification and validation reports as provided by the state Information Management System (IMS) and Iowa's System to Achieve Results (I-STAR). Figure C14.1 shows baseline and FFY 2005 (2005-2006), FFY 2006 (2006-2007), and FFY 2007 (2007-2008) data and targets.

Figure C14.1. Lead Agency Percent for Submitting Timely and Accurate Data for Required OSEP Reports.



	2004-2005 Baseline	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
State	100	100	100	100			
Target	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source. 618 Data Tables, State Performance Plan, and Annual Performance Reports Submitted to OSEP, FFY 2004 (2004-2005) - FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

Table C14.1 provides results for timely and accurate data for APR indicators for FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

Table C14.1.
Self-Scoring Rubric for Part C SPP and APR Data Reporting.

Iowa SPP/SPR Data - Indicator 14			
APR Indicator	**Valid and Reliable**	**Correct Calculation**	**Total**
1	1	1	2
2	1	1	2
3	1	1	2
4	1	1	2
5	1	1	2
6	1	1	2
7	1	1	2
8A	1	1	2
8B	1	1	2
8C	1	1	2
9	1	1	2
10	1	1	2
11	1	1	2
12	1	1	2
13	1	1	2
			30
APR Score Calculation	**Timely Submission Points - (5 pts for submission of APR/SPP by February 2, 2009)**		5
	Grand Total		35

Source. Iowa Information Management System (IMS), Iowa's System to Achieve Results (I-STAR), and U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, Data Analysis System (DANS), 618 Tables, FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

Table C14.2 provides results for timely and accurate data for Part C 618 data for FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

Table C14.2.
Self-Scoring Rubric for Part C 618 Data Reporting.

Iowa 618 Data - Indicator 14					
Table	**Timely**	**Complete Data**	**Passed Edit Check**	**Responded to Data Note Requests**	**Total**
Table 1 - Child Count Due Date: 2/1/08	1	1	1	1	4
Table 2 - Settings Due Date: 2/1/08	1	1	1	1	4
Table 3 - Exiting Due Date: 11/1/08	1	1	1	NA	3
Table 4 - Dispute Resolution Due Date: 11/1/08	1	1	1	NA	3
				Subtotal	14
			Weighted Total (subtotal X 2.5; round ≤ .49 down and ≥ .50 up to whole number)		35
Indicator #14 Calculation					
			A. APR Total		35
			B. 618 Total		35
			C. Grand Total		70
Percent of timely and accurate data = (C divided by 70 times 100)			(C) / (70) X 100 =		100.00

Source. Iowa Information Management System (IMS), Iowa's System to Achieve Results (I-STAR), and U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, Data Analysis System (DANS), 618 Tables, FFY 2007 (2007-2008).

Discussion of Improvement Activities Completed and Explanation of Progress or Slippage that Occurred for FFY 2007 (2007-2008):

Results of Lead Agency data indicated the target was met with 100% for provision of all data collected in a timely manner and considered accurate. The 618 Data Tables for Child Count, Settings, Exiting and Dispute Resolution were submitted to WESTAT by required due dates of February 1st and November 1st, 2007. Iowa's FFY 2007 (2007-2008) Federal Application for Funds was approved as submitted. Iowa's Part C State Performance Plan FFY 2006-2011 met federal requirements after submission review. All indicator data were valid and reliable,

calculations were done correctly, and instructions were followed. This resulted in a grand total of 35 on the Part C SPP and APR reporting rubric. All 618 data tables were complete and submitted in a timely manner. Edit checks were passed and all data notes completed. This resulted in a grand total score of 35 on the 618 Data Reporting rubric.

Several improvement activities were implemented to maintain compliance with this indicator. Policies and practices were analyzed, technical assistance was provided to Regional Grantee and IMS personnel, and on-going monitoring of system performance was conducted. The Lead Agency partnered with Regional Grantees, Signatory Agencies, and IMS personnel and provided oversight and training to ensure all needed data would be timely and accurate. These personnel also conducted verification and validation checks as well as participated in onsite visits.

Verification of data. A state monitoring and improvement data system was designed to enhance Iowa's federal requirement for monitoring of IDEA 2004 Part B and C by focusing on efficient and effective use of technology to make data-based decisions to improve specialized programs and services for Iowa's children. In 2004, the Lead Agency issued an RFP to develop an online monitoring and data collection system. The contractor worked collaboratively with assigned state staff and all affected agencies in order to ensure the implementation of an effective IDEA Part B and C monitoring system. The data system, Iowa's System to Achieve Results (I-STAR), was used for Part C Self-Assessment File Reviews (procedural compliance and effective transition) and Family Surveys in FFY 2006 (2006-2007). Data collection for 45-day timeline was collected by the state Information Management System (IMS) for FFY 2006 (2006-2007). Utilizing IMS allowed collection of Indicator C7 data for all Part C eligible children. Data sources include, but are not limited to, 618 Data Tables and I-STAR. Development of future web-based Individualized Family Service Plan forms will lead to more consistent and efficient data collected for IMS and other data reporting and monitoring mechanisms.

Data for 618 Data Tables and some SPP indicators are collected in Iowa's Information Management System (IMS), which employs a comprehensive verification process. This multi-step process ensures the timely and accurate data required for all 618 Data Tables, FFY 2007 (2007-2008) State Performance Plan and each Annual Progress Reports.

Iowa's IMS data system entails data checks at several steps:

Step 1. Regional Grantee IMS data entry personnel are trained to review IFSPs for completeness and consistency. If needed, IFSP team members are contacted to clarify or complete specific data or the IFSP is returned for corrections.

Step 2. When data are entered into IMS, several types of automatic data quality messages appear on the IMS screens:

- When a new eligible child is entered, the statewide historical database is queried to see if the child may have had an earlier IFSP. A list of near matches, based on name and birth date, is provided so that data entry personnel can check to see if the new child was previously served. This routine reduces the risk of the same child having two different IMS identification numbers.
- Some data fields are required before data entry can continue. For example, if the resident district code, gender, ethnicity, birth date, or serve status is left blank, a message appears with a prompt and no further data entry is allowed until a valid value is entered.
- For other data fields, a message appears but data entry may continue. For example, if the code is left blank, a message advises the operator but data entry continues. These messages are saved and written to a Verification Report (see below).

Step 3. A Verification Report sorted by Regional Grantee, lists data warnings and possible data errors that need to be checked. The report is run in real time so it is continuously updated and available to data entry personnel. Data entry personnel review the report for his or her respective Regional Grantee, cross checking against the IFSP

and following up with Regional Grantee and local IFSP team members as needed. Types of warnings in the report include possible duplicate children, questionable age/IFSP age-eligibility combination, blank code, invalid program/service combination, and invalid full-part time code. The Verification Report is monitored by the Lead Agency to ensure that Regional Grantees regularly access and review potential errors during the two critical seasons for data entry (count/setting and exit).

Step 4. Lead Agency data personnel periodically review IMS, personnel, and discipline data and contact IMS and Regional Grantee staff with specific accuracy concerns above and beyond the Verification Report to rectify any data abnormalities.

In FFY 2007 (2007-2008), the Iowa Part C data system (IMS) personnel continued to work with Project EASIER (Electronic Access System for Iowa Education Records) to track individual data. Project EASIER is the Iowa Department of Education's initiative involving the transfer of individual student records. The mission of the project is to reduce data burden, encourage better decision-making by establishing and maintaining a cost effective method of accessing and transferring accurate and timely education information among school districts, post-secondary institutions and the Iowa Department of Education.

Further, the Lead Agency continued to improve data entry procedures and revised data collection forms and database fields and provided ongoing training to Regional Grantee data personnel. In FFY 2004 (2004-2005) through FFY 2007 (2007-2008), all Part C 618 Data Tables were submitted on time.

The Regional Grantees conducted additional verification checks with guidance from the Lead Agency during FFY 2007 (2007-2008) on data for Indicators C3, C7, and the 618 Children Served, Settings and Exit Tables. All regions verified and/or made timely corrections as needed to assure data were accurate before final reporting. The Lead Agency also conducted an extra verification check on the I-STAR data used in Indicator C8.

Analysis of data to identify concerns. The Lead Agency, Regional Grantees, and IMS personnel analyzed specific results of SPP and APR indicator data for timely services, natural environments, early childhood outcomes, family outcomes, timeliness of evaluations, child find, and transition information. Trend data were analyzed to ensure that accurate data were being collected on the IFSP and entered into the data system.

Analysis of policies, procedures and practices. Policies, procedures, and practices were reviewed during FFY 2007 (2007-2008). Based on Regional Grantee prior verification efforts, changes were made to procedures in response to Lead Agency requests to ensure timely and accurate data.

Technical assistance. The Lead Agency, Regional Grantees, and IMS personnel conducted 11 meetings during FFY 2007 (2007-2008). The focus of the meetings was to ensure ongoing accuracy and timeliness of data. Personnel were trained in required information and accurate data entry for maintenance of other indicator and 618 data. Training was also provided to assist personnel in understanding verification and validation reports (provided after data entry) and how to make any necessary changes to entered data.

The Lead Agency also worked collaboratively with Regional Grantee leadership during regularly scheduled meetings to ensure accurate and timely data for Indicators C1, C2, C3, C4, C7 and C8.

Ongoing monitoring and enforcement as needed. In FFY 2007 (2007-2008), State data, program and monitoring consultants continued to review Part C data and data collection procedures to assure timely and accurate data. All regions timely responded to all Lead Agency requests for verification and made timely corrections before data were used for reporting.

Each region submitted year end reports to document improvement activities that were conducted to reach and/or maintain state targets in all indicators. In FFY 2007 (2007-2008) Regional Grantees all reported training, ongoing support and/or file review activities that were intended to increase reliability and validity of data for Indicators C1 Timely Services, C7 Timely Evaluations and Initial IFSP Meetings; and C8 Transition. For regions that were below the state target on other indicators, Regional Grantees analyzed data for root causes to determine if reliability/validity of data was an issue, and if so, addressed those specific problems (e.g. personnel training issues). All Regional Grantees indicated that they periodically used the IMS verification reports to monitor their agencies' performance and accurate data collection on this requirement.

Revisions, with Justification, to Proposed Targets/Improvement Activities/Timelines/ Resources for FFY 2008 (2008-2009):

There are no revisions to Iowa's proposed targets, improvement activities, timelines, or resources for FFY 2008 (2008-2009). In order to maintain target performance, the Lead Agency will continue to implement activities outlined in the State Performance Plan.

Appendix 1

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
PROGRAMS

TABLE 4

REPORT OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION UNDER PART C, OF THE
INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT
2007-08

PAGE 1 OF 1
OMB NO.: 1820-0678
FORM EXPIRES: 11/30/2009

STATE: IA_IOWA

SECTION A: WRITTEN, SIGNED COMPLAINTS	
(1) Written, signed complaints total	0
(1.1) Complaints with reports issued	0
(a) Reports with findings	0
(b) Reports within timelines	0
(c) Reports within extended timelines	0
(1.2) Complaints withdrawn or dismissed	0
(1.3) Complaints pending	0
(a) Complaints pending a due process hearing	0

SECTION B: MEDIATION REQUESTS	
(2) Mediation requests total	0
(2.1) Mediations	0
(a) Mediations related to due process	0
(i) Mediation agreements	0
(b) Mediations not related to due process	0
(i) Mediation agreements	0
(2.2) Mediations not held (including pending)	0

SECTION C: HEARING REQUESTS	
(3) Hearing requests total	0
(3.1) Resolution meetings (For States adopted Part B Procedures)	-9
(a) Settlement agreements	-9
(3.2) Hearings (fully adjudicated) (For all states)	0
(a.1) Decisions within timeline - 30 day Part C Procedures	0
(a.2) Decisions within timeline - 30 day Part B Procedures	-9
(a.3) Decisions within timeline - 45 day Part B Procedures	-9
(b) Decisions within extended timeline (only applicable if using Part B due process hearing procedures)	-9
(3.3) Resolved without a hearing	0

CURRENT DATE:
Version Date: 9/12/2008