



Department of
**Intellectual &
Developmental Disabilities**

Tennessee Early Intervention System (TEIS)

TEIS Overview

- Tennessee Early Intervention System offers therapy and services for young children with developmental delays or disabilities
- TEIS provides services as outlined in Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- As of July 2020, TEIS is administered by DIDD.



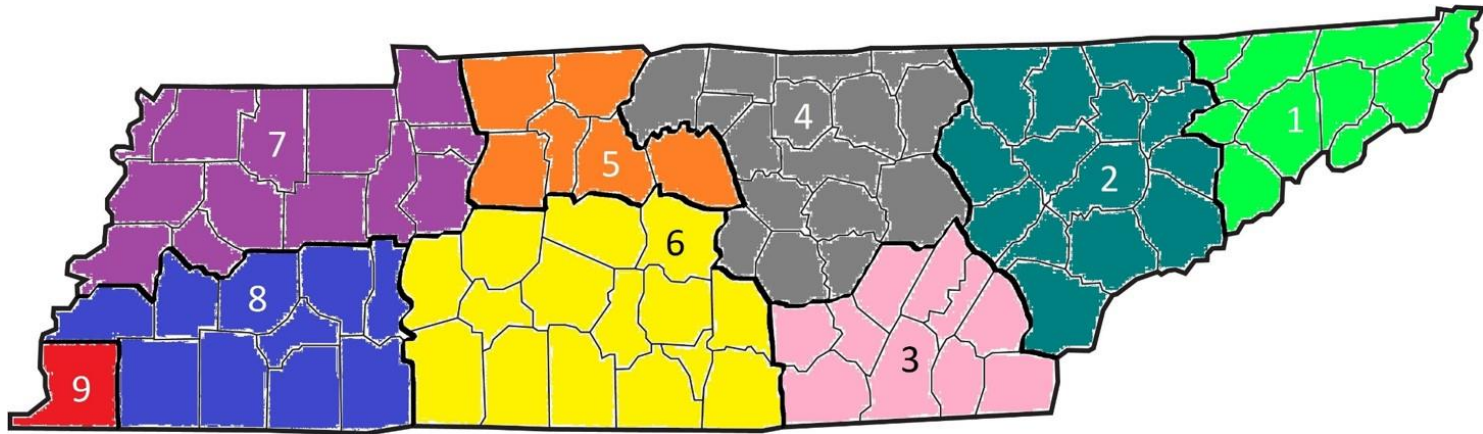
TEIS Basics

- Received more than 20,000 referrals last year
- Employs more than 200 people statewide
- Contracts with hundreds of agencies, employing thousands of therapists and early interventionists

TEIS Point of Entry Offices

West TN Region

- Northwest-Martin (7)
- Southwest-Jackson (8)
- Memphis Delta-Memphis (9)



Middle TN Region

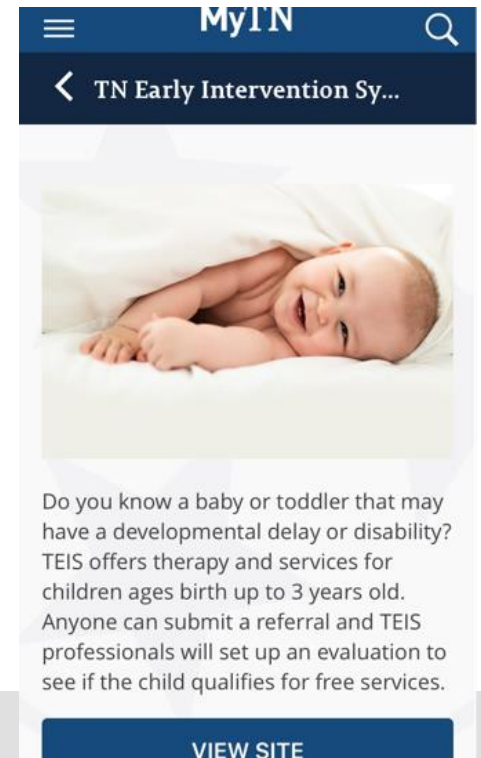
- Upper Cumberland-Cookeville (4)
- Greater Nashville-Nashville (5)
- South Central-Murfreesboro (6)

East TN Region

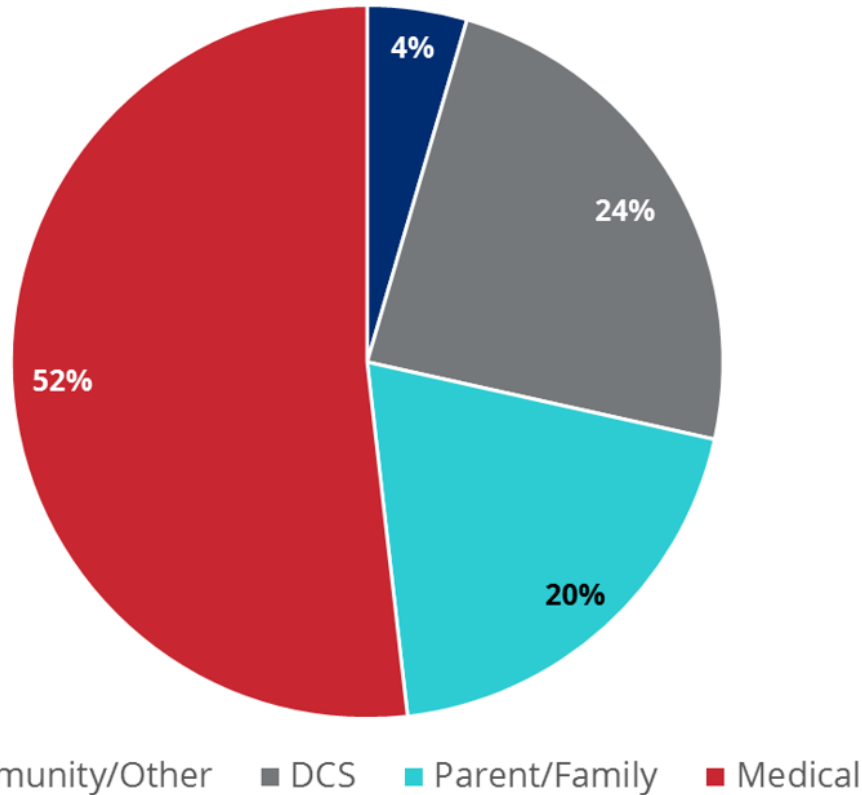
- First-Johnson City (1)
- East-Knoxville (2)
- Southeast-Chattanooga (3)

Making a Referral

- Online referral form via the TEIS website:
<http://tn.gov/didd/teis>
- Download the MyTN App
- Call or fax the POE district office that provides services for the child's county of residence
- Call the TEIS Referral line at 1-800-852-7157



TEIS Referral Sources



The medical community makes up for more than half of all TEIS referrals

What happens after a referral?

- 45 days to determine eligibility and develop a plan for services
- A child must demonstrate one or more of the following criteria to be eligible for services
 - Diagnosis of one or more specific conditions likely to result in a developmental delay
 - 25% delay in two developmental areas: motor, communication, cognition, social, and adaptive OR
 - 40% delay in one developmental area
- Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)
 - Identifies supports and services to address family priorities

Early Intervention Services

Basic services outlined in IDEA include:

- Service coordination
- Evaluation
- Assessment
- Developmental therapy
- Family training and counseling
- Physical therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Speech therapy
- Vision/hearing services
- Assistive technology
- Transportation
- Psychological evaluations



Cost of TEIS Services

- Services are provided at **no cost** to families.
- The program is supported through state and federal funds, Medicaid, and private insurance.
- Eligibility evaluations and coordination of services are provided at **no cost**.
- If services are recommended, then the service coordinator will discuss consent to access the child's insurance with the family.



Services After Age 3

- Families receive a transition planning conference (TPC) prior to their third birthday that includes the local school district
- As of Oct. 15, 2022, children may be able to remain in TEIS until the start of school following their 4th birthday under a new TEIS “extended option”
 - Children must qualify for school system services
 - Parents may decide to either remain in TEIS or transition to the school system
- For children who do not qualify, they are referred to local programs/resources



Measuring Child Progress

Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO)

Percent of infants and toddlers with individualized family service plans (IFSPs) who demonstrate improved:

Outcome A: Positive **social-emotional** skills (including social relationships)

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

Outcome C: Use of appropriate **behaviors to meet their needs**

[Annual Performance Report (APR), Indicator 3]

ECO Data Collection

- Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO) data is collected every six months in conjunction with the IFSP review cycle
- The Assessment, Evaluation, and Progress System (AEPS) tool is used to for ongoing assessment of children and ECO data
- If a child exits before age 3, the last continuing assessment is converted to the exiting rating
 - Children with less than six months of service between entrance and exit are excluded from federal reporting

ECO Entrance and Exit Ratings

1. Child does **not yet** show functioning expected of a child his or her age in any situation.
2. Child occasionally uses **immediate foundational skills** across settings and situations.
3. Child uses **immediate foundational skills**, most or all of the time, across settings and situations.
4. Child shows occasional age-appropriate functioning across settings and situations.
5. Child shows functioning expected for his or her age **some of the time and/or in some settings and situations**.
6. Child's functioning generally is considered **appropriate** for his or her age but there are **some significant concerns** about the child's functioning in this outcome area.
7. Child shows functioning expected for his or her age in **all or almost all everyday situations** that are part of the child's life. Functioning is considered **appropriate** for his or her age.

ECO Progress Categories

- a) Children who **did not improve** functioning
- b) Children who **improved functioning**, but **not sufficient** to move nearer to functioning comparable to same-aged peers
- c) Children who **improved functioning** to a level **nearer** to same-aged peers, but **did not reach** it
- d) Children who **improved functioning** to reach a level **comparable** to same-aged peers
- e) Children who **maintained functioning** at a level **comparable** to same-aged peers

For information on calculation of progress categories, please visit [ECTA Center: Child Outcomes Summary \(COS\) Process: Calculators](#)

ECO Summary Statements

Five progress categories calculate two summary statements:

1. Developmental Progress or “Closing the Achievement Gap”

Of those children who entered or exited the program below age expectations, the percent who substantially increased their rate of growth by the time they exited the program

- (Summary Statement Formula = Progress Categories $c+d / a+b+c+d$)

2. Same Developmental Age as Peers or “Preschool Readiness”

The percent of children who were functioning within age expectations by the time they exited the program

- (Summary Statement Formula = Progress Categories $d+e / a+b+c+d+e$)

Data Reporting – ECO Project

- IDEA requires states to provide an annual report to the public about the performance of early intervention service programs (EIS programs) compared to the state's performance on indicator targets.
- ECO data is reported for any child who exited and was enrolled in TEIS for at least six months (183 days) from initial IFSP to exit date.
 - Certain exit reasons may also exclude child from reporting
- All children who exited must be reported in aggregate in the federal report regardless of eligibility.
- Project Goal: Recalculate the 2021-22 early childhood outcomes report separating children who were eligible by delay from children eligible by diagnosis from children eligible by both methods.

THANK YOU!



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