

SoonerStart is required to report outcomes data for children served through Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) as part of their Annual Performance Report (APR).

Individual child outcome data for the SoonerStart program is not reported publicly so that individual identities and ratings are protected. The combined information is reported in percentages to provide an overall view of how children in SoonerStart are benefiting from early intervention services.

The three child outcome areas required to be reported include:

- Positive social-emotional skills (including social relationships)
- Acquisition and use of knowledge and skills (including communication skills)
- Use of appropriate action to meet their needs

Early Childhood Outcomes Ratings

Ratings are provided for infants and toddlers in the SoonerStart program according to their developmental abilities in each of the outcome areas when they begin early intervention services and when they exit the program.

All children who are less than 30 months of age when IFSP services are initiated receive an Entry child outcome rating. Children who are 30 months or older at the time of the Initial IFSP do NOT receive an Entry or Exit rating because they will not receive six months of service before their third birthdays.

All children who receive an Entry rating should receive an Exit rating if they receive six months or more of services from the date of the IFSP to their program exit date.

A child who exits the SoonerStart program with less than six months of early intervention services but is re-opened less than six months from his/her exit date (see Re-Referral/Re-Open Procedures) keeps his/her original Entry rating.

A child who exits the SoonerStart program with less than six months of services but is re-referred more than six months from his or her exit date (Re-Referral/Re-Open Procedures) should have a new Entry rating completed if IFSP services will be provided for at least six months.

If a family reports that they are transferring their child to another SoonerStart site and he/she has received services for more than six months, the current service provider should complete the Exit rating to be entered in the SoonerStart database before sending the child's information to the receiving SoonerStart site. If the child resumes services at the new SoonerStart site, and receives six months of services before exiting the program, a new Exit rating is completed and entered into the SoonerStart database. If the family does not continue services at the new site or services do not resume for six months or longer, a new Exit rating is not completed.

An Entry rating on all three early childhood outcomes is required to be completed within 30 days of the Initial IFSP. The Exit rating is completed within 30 days before or after the child's exit date or transition from SoonerStart.

Child Outcomes Summary Form (COSF)

The child outcomes ratings and supporting evidence are documented on the Child Outcome Summary Form (COSF). The COSF is submitted for entry into the SoonerStart database and maintained in the child's early intervention record.

The COSF is a 7-point scale for summarizing information related to a child's progress on each of the three child outcome areas required by Office of Special Education Programs. Information will be collected from multiple sources to describe a child's functioning on each of the outcomes and summarized on the COSF. The information may include one or more norm-referenced or curriculum-based assessments, parent report on child's skills and behavior, progress notes of service providers working with the child, observations by a childcare provider, or other sources.

The COSF is NOT an assessment instrument. It is a device used for summarizing across multiple sources of information about the child. The COSF allows the results of the different assessments given to different children across the state to be placed on the same scale to be aggregated for federal reporting.

To provide data for federal reporting requirements, the COSF must be completed at a minimum once at program entry and again at program exit with at least 6 months in between.

The assigned primary service provider is ultimately responsible for completing the form. The rating is based on assessments, observations, and information gathered from family members and others familiar with the child's functioning. The multidisciplinary evaluation team may choose to complete the Entry rating after a child is determined eligible.

The Exit rating is completed on a new form. The Entry and Exit ratings will be compared and calculated at the state level on the SoonerStart database.

The service provider completing the Entry and Exit COSFs should explain ECOs to the family and give them an opportunity to participate in the ratings for their child. Whether or not families choose to participate in the rating discussion, professionals must be able to explain why the rating is being done and what it means.

The Entry and Exit (if available) COSF may be shared with public school personnel during the transition process if written parental consent is obtained.

*The Child Outcomes Summary Form (COSF), Instructions and the Decision Tree for Summary Rating Discussions are found in **Appendix M**.*

Role of the Family

COSF ratings rely on information about a child's functioning across situations and settings. Parent input is crucial: family members see the child in situations that professionals do not. As members of the IFSP team, families are natural participants in the COSF rating discussion. Their role in the rating is as the child expert, while other members of the team will know child development and the skills and behaviors expected at various age levels.

Individual teams not including the family in the rating process will need to maximize the role of family as information provider in order to make the COSF rating. Whether or not families choose to participate in the rating discussion, professionals must be able to explain why the rating is being done and what it means.