

# Early Childhood Outcomes: Entry and Exit Guidance

## Early Childhood Outcomes (ECOs)

Oklahoma reports outcomes data for preschool children served through Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This data provides information at the individual, district, and state levels about the progress and success of young students receiving special education services. The three child outcome areas required to be reported are:

- **Positive social-emotional skills**
- **Acquisition and use of knowledge and skills**
- **Use of appropriate behaviors to meet needs**

## Guidelines

- All children who receive an entry rating must be given an exit rating if they receive at least 180 calendar days of services from the date of the initial IEP to the last day of IEP services/end of year. End of year services are calculated as of June 30 of the current school year if an exit date is not provided. Exit dates should reflect when the ratings were actually completed (for example, at the end of the preschool year in May) and are not future dated. This may mean occasionally that the length of services reported will be less than 180 days.
- If a child has not received at least 180 (calendar) days of service, an ECO is not required. If a child transfers to another district with less than 180 days of services, an exit rating is not given by the sending district. **If** services resume at the receiving district and the total time of services at the former site **plus** the new site equals 180 days or longer, an exit rating is given when the child leaves the receiving program.
- Parent/caregiver input is crucial. Family members see the child in situations that professionals do not. As members of the IEP team, families are expected participants in the discussion where ECO ratings are determined. Professionals must be able to explain to the entire team why the rating is being done, what it means, and the evidence that shows why the team identified the selected rating for each child.

## Outcome Rating Scenarios

**All 3- and 4-year-old children determined eligible for services will have entry ECO ratings.** Additional guidance is as follows:

- **If a child is placed Dec 31 (or earlier) in the school year and will be exiting preschool in the spring:** ECO entry **and** exit ratings **are** required.



- **If a child is placed Jan 1 (or later) of the school year and will be exiting preschool in the spring:** An ECO entry rating can be entered but is not required for reporting purposes.
  - **4-year-old children:** EdPlan requires entry data for all 4-year-old children determined eligible. Best practice is to enter current skills and abilities data for the child (as child may not exit to kindergarten in the coming fall).
  - **5-year-old children:** No ECO entry rating is required for children placed Jan 1 or later who are exiting preschool, but can be entered to support progress measurement.
  
- **If a child placed is Jan 1 (or later) and school has not yet determined if the child will advance to kindergarten in the fall:** Enter current skills and abilities data for child for the ECO entry ratings (as child may not exit to preschool in spring).
  
- **If a child transfers between in-state school districts:** In general, no changes are made to ECOs when a child transfers between Oklahoma school districts. If a child is exiting preschool and transferring at the end of a year, ECO exit ratings should be completed. Receiving schools of transferred preschool students should check for **total length** of service before exiting due to ineligibility or exiting to kindergarten. ECO exit ratings may be required Children transferring out of state should receive an exit rating if they have received at least 6 months of services.
  
- **Child exits without eligibility event, later returns for service:** If the child’s record was not closed in EdPlan, an exit ECO will be flagged for completion if 180 days of services were provided. If a child’s record was closed in EdPlan and the child later returns for services, a new entry ECO should **not** be completed. If the child receives a total of 180 days of services, an exit ECO is required, **even if** the current school has served for less than 6 months.
  
- **Child determined ineligible prior to exiting preschool (including caregivers declining services):** If a child has received 180 days of service, an ECO exit rating is required prior to exiting from services. EdPlan will soon require this before closing the child’s IEP.
  
- **Kindergarten student did not receive exit ECO ratings prior to leaving preschool:** Complete the ECO exit ratings with input from IEP team members as soon as possible. This missed ECO will likely be in the previous year’s data determination if the child was served in your district.

For additional information about Early Childhood Outcomes,  
contact: 405-521-3351.

<https://sde.ok.gov/special-education-early-childhood-outcomes>

