



STATE OF TENNESSEE
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DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
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TEIS POLICY MEMORANDUM #07-014

TO: TEIS District Administrators

FROM: Jamie Thomas Kilpatrick, Director
Office of Early Childhood Programs, Division of Special Education

RE: **Children without Private Health Insurance Coverage**

DATE: December 1, 2007

This memorandum provides clarification related to children referred to Tennessee's Early Intervention System (TEIS) who present at intake without private health insurance coverage. TEIS is required by Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to coordinate for the payment of necessary early intervention services for eligible infants and toddlers and their families with other public and private sources. Thus, when assisting families in completing the TEIS intake procedures, the families should be informed about the public health insurance programs available in Tennessee. In addition, effective February 1, 2008, families will be required, consistent with the Part C consent and confidentiality requirements in 34 CFR §§303.420, 303.460 and 303.520, to complete TennCare and CoverKids applications in order to implement Part C's funding coordination and payor of last resort provisions in IDEA sections 632, 635(a)(1) and 640 and make those public benefits available as a source of payment for Part C services for an eligible child. Copies of the completed application must be filed with the local TEIS Point of Entry Office before TEIS will use Part C funds to pay for IFSP services. However, as noted below, a child referred to Part C will have the initial evaluation and assessment conducted and an initial IFSP developed.

For children referred to TEIS who do not have private health insurance coverage and whose families do not complete TennCare and CoverKids applications, TEIS will provide such services to the child and family as are required in 34 CFR §303.521(b): necessary screening, evaluation and assessment, service coordination, and administrative and coordinative activities related to the development, review, and evaluation of the child's IFSP. Tennessee will also provide the "core" service of special instruction without subjecting that service to the State's system of payment provisions. The child will be evaluated, assessed, and the IFSP developed. If the parent does not complete a TennCare or Cover Kids application, then only service coordination and special instruction services are provided at no cost.

If you have any additional questions please contact Linda Hartbarger, Part C Coordinator, at linda.hartbarger@state.tn.us or 615-253-5032. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.