

Michigan Mandatory Special Education (MMSE) Evaluations during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

Child is currently being evaluated for eligibility for *Early On*/MMSE, has not yet had Initial IFSP:

Early On/MMSE evaluation was started, but not completed, before the March 16 school closures **or** a child is referred for *Early On*/MMSE evaluation after *Early On* program resumes:

- Complete the *Early On*/MMSE evaluation remotely.
- If it is decided that face-to-face evaluation is necessary to complete the MMSE portion of the evaluation and determine MMSE eligibility, however enough information is available to determine *Early On* eligibility, then either an Initial IFSP or an interim IFSP may be utilized.
- From [Early On Michigan State Plan](#)
 - Interim IFSP - Provision of services before evaluation and assessment are completed (§ 303.345) *Early On* services for an eligible child and the child's family may commence prior to the completion of the formal evaluation and assessment if parental consent is given in accordance with the procedural safeguards for *Early On*. In such instances, an interim IFSP is developed that includes the name of the service coordinator who assumes responsibility for the implementation of the interim IFSP and for coordination with other agencies and persons as needed. The interim IFSP also includes a description of services that are immediately needed by the child and the child's family, and addresses their most pressing concerns and priorities. Evaluation (if needed), child assessment, and family assessment are then completed, and an initial IFSP meeting is completed within the required 45-day time period.
- The following disclaimer may be helpful to be used as documentation on the Initial IFSP or Interim IFSP.
 - *“Due to the constraints of social distancing, the evaluation was completed remotely. Testing procedures in this manner are limited, thus, modifications were made. Results are documented and a follow up assessment may need to be completed once face-to-face evaluation can resume.”*
- If the initial IFSP meeting is not able to be held within the 45-day time period, the reason, Exceptional Family Circumstances, would be utilized. The initial IFSP would be held as soon as it is possible to complete the evaluation and all of the information is able to be gathered in order to complete the IFSP.

Child has a current IFSP and was/is referred for an MMSE evaluation:

MMSE evaluation was started, but not completed, before the March 16 school closures **or** an MMSE evaluation is requested for a child after *Early On* program resumes:

- Complete the MMSE evaluation remotely.
- If it is decided that face-to-face evaluation is necessary to complete the evaluation and determine eligibility for MMSE, maintain *Early On* eligibility, and provide the level of teleintervention necessary to address the concern that resulted in to the request for an MMSE evaluation, until it is feasible to complete the evaluation face-to-face. Document what will be provided through teleintervention to address the child and family’s needs.

When completing an MMSE evaluation remotely, please refer to the Michigan Department of Education’s MMSE Eligibility Guidance documents to determine MMSE eligibility. Below are links to these documents:

[MMSE Eligibility Guidance Introduction](#)

[MMSE SLI Guidance](#)

[MMSE--SLI Warning Signs](#)

[MMSE ASD Guidance](#)

[MMSE ASD Appendix](#)

[MMSE OHI Guidance](#)

[MMSE OHI Sample Physician Letter](#)

[MMSE ECDD Guidance](#)

Additionally, refer to any guidance regarding tele-evaluation provided by the publisher of the evaluation tool you are planning to use. Be sure to comply with any requirements stated by the publisher of the tool.

Also, check with professional organizations for guidance on tele-evaluations and tele-intervention specific to your discipline.