

Strong Beginnings

QuickStart Guide Section 12: Program Evaluation

Guidance for program evaluation at the program provider and ISD level is mostly the same.

- Family goal forms and information from Family Liaisons is used in addition to other sources of information to determine locally and regionally if the systems in place are working, whether there is efficient use of resources and how the program can best respond to child and family needs.

An approved instrument is used for program evaluation and a rating of 3 or higher on Great Start to Quality maintained.

- For research purposes, one program evaluation instrument must be used by all Strong Beginnings pilot programs. After pilots are selected, it will be determined which instrument is most frequently used by the group and everyone will be required to use that instrument. Pilot sites may use an additional approved instrument if they wish to do so for local and regional purposes.
- Data for local and regional evaluation should be aggregated and analyzed at the program level with Strong Beginnings separated from GSRP data. Data from both programs may also be combined for further analyses.
- When setting data-based goals for continuous improvement, plans for things like professional learning should be based solely on Strong Beginnings classrooms data.
- Data will be summarized by Family Liaisons monthly, and include the number of family visits scheduled and made, number of completed goal sheets, number of modified goal sheets, number and type of referrals made and number and type of referrals kept. This data should be aggregated by the Family Liaison Supervisor and discussed at least every other month at Family Liaison staff meetings. Yearly summaries should be used with other child and program data for continuous improvement planning.

A local/regional plan for follow-up of students through second grade is mostly the same.

- The local/regional evaluation should indicate whether children participated in Strong Beginnings and the data considered separately for children with one and two years of program experience.

There will also be statewide evaluation of the program as well as typical expectations for state and national evaluation.

- The Michigan State University Research Team will require information from children, parents, teachers and family advocates to determine what parts of the program are working and making a difference for children and families. ISDs and program providers are required to submit needed data in a timely manner and encourage and support the collection of data from children and families. A list of the data is included in the Strong Beginnings Pilot Implementation Manual.

Parents must be notified of program evaluation activities and programs must cooperate with MDE in terms of reporting requirements and other assistance with research.

- Strong Beginnings must cooperate with the MSU research team, MDE and the CCRESA implementation team in all requests for data and assistance. Families will be asked to sign an additional consent form if they are willing to have their children and themselves participate in the MSU evaluation.