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First Steps and Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Office of Special Education recently posted two Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) documents on the web related to First Steps and Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE).

A new FAQ on ECSE is available at: <https://dese.mo.gov/special-education/early-childhood-special-education>. The FAQ document answers questions related to child find, evaluation, eligibility, Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings, placement, and services.

An updated FAQ on Transition from First Steps to Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) is available at: <https://dese.mo.gov/special-education/first-steps/transition-first-steps-early-childhood-special>. The FAQ has been updated to align with requirements for First Steps to send directory information to the Local Educational Agency (LEA) in which the child resides and invite an ECSE representative to the First Steps transition conference. This link also includes a presentation on transition requirements. Part 1 of the presentation includes information on the First Steps requirements for notification to the LEA, and Part 2 of the presentation includes information on LEA requirements for the Part B evaluation process and timelines.