

# Section A: Introduction to the GSM Framework

## Foundation

### Federal

As required by Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), [20 U.S.C. §1416](#), states must have in place systems of general supervision that monitor implementation of IDEA by early intervention programs statewide, whether or not they receive Part C funds. Each state's general supervision system must include eight (8) federally required components that together:

- Ensure implementation of IDEA.
- Identify and correct noncompliance.
- Facilitate improvement.
- Support practices that improve results and functional outcomes for children and families.

### State

The Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) serves as the State Lead Agency (SLA) for implementing Part C of IDEA in Virginia. The statewide early intervention system is known as the Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia (ITCVA) and is comprised of forty (40) local early intervention systems (LEIS/es). Implementation of federal Part C early intervention requirements and evidence-based practices is supported by:

- [State regulations signed by the Governor of Virginia in December 2014](#). These regulations specify state requirements for Virginia's Part C early intervention system.
- The [Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia \(ITCVA\) Practice Manual](#) ("Practice Manual"). The Practice Manual provides detailed explanations and guidance for implementing Part C of IDEA in Virginia.
- The [Virginia Interagency Memorandum of Agreement for Part C Early Intervention](#) (2013-05) ("memorandum of agreement"). The memorandum of agreement details the understandings and commitments of participating state agencies to meet statutory and regulatory requirements of Part C of the IDEA and Virginia statutory requirements related to Part C.
- The [Local Contract for Participation in Part C](#) ("Part C local contract"). The Part C local contract provides the mechanism for exchange of funds from the SLA to the local lead agencies (LLAs) responsible for implementing the LEIS. Further, the Part C local contract specifies the scope of work and deliverables for both the SLA and for the LLAs.

## Mission, Vision and Principles

### Mission

Virginia's general supervision and monitoring framework ("GSM framework") supports localities in their efforts to have effective local early intervention systems that result in positive outcomes for children and families while complying with federal and state regulations.

### Vision

Virginia's GSM framework promotes each family's ability to successfully participate in everyday activities and routines and ensures that the early intervention system operates in compliance with Part C requirements.

- Services are provided to children and families in accordance with the law.
- All systems consistently remain in compliance.
- All children and families receive evidence-based supports and services that lead to positive outcomes.
- Virginia's system promotes successful participation of all children and families in everyday activities.

### Principles

Virginia's GSM framework will:

- Be rigorous enough to ensure timely identification and correction of noncompliance.
- Collect, analyze and report data in a factual, nonjudgmental and supportive manner.
- Monitor compliance with federal requirements while addressing broader issues through technical assistance and other improvement activities, as needed.
- Focus on improved results that are meaningful for all stakeholders.
- Be streamlined and straightforward for the field.
- Facilitate data-driven decision-making and actions.
- Support ongoing monitoring by local systems to ensure local systems are never surprised by state monitoring results.
- Support local systems to conduct their own data analysis for improvement planning.
- Target time and resources where improvements are most needed.

## SLA Staffing

To implement general supervision and monitoring of Virginia's Part C early intervention system—including the provision of ongoing technical assistance—the SLA employs:

- One full-time early intervention program manager.
- One full-time early intervention team leader who is responsible for oversight of the monitoring and supervision team, requirements and timelines.

- Three full-time Part C monitoring consultants (MCs), one of whom is also responsible for dispute resolution.
- Three full-time Part C technical assistance consultants (TACs).
- One full-time infant mental health specialist.
- One full-time Part C data manager.
- One full-time administrative assistant.

Each of the three MCs is assigned to work with local systems in two regions of the state, and each MC is paired with a TAC who works with these same two regions. This process allows an MC to become familiar with local and regional issues impacting compliance with Part C requirements and/or results for children and families. Further, it allows MCs to more promptly identify and work with their TAC colleagues to support local correction of noncompliance and/or improvement of results.

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