



Celebrating the anniversary of the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and its impact on Early Intervention



What is IDEA?

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a law that ensures that public schools provide free and appropriate public education to students with disabilities. Part C of IDEA aids states in providing early intervention (EI) services for infants and toddlers birth to age 3 with disabilities and their families.



The history of IDEA

1975: IDEA was enacted as Public Law 94-142, guaranteeing free and appropriate public education to children with disabilities.

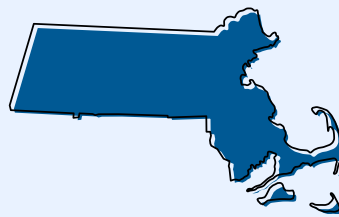
1990: Expanded to include early intervention (Part C) for infants and toddlers birth to age 3 with disabilities.

Today: IDEA continues to support millions of children nationwide in achieving developmental milestones and accessing education.



Early Intervention in Massachusetts

Massachusetts has **one of the oldest** early intervention programs in the country, and one of the first to **establish EI as its own profession** in the 1970s.



41,393 children annually receive EI services in Massachusetts

EI offers critical services through:

- 63** Early Intervention Services (EIS) providers
- 21** Specialty service programs supporting unique needs



Why IDEA and Early Intervention matter

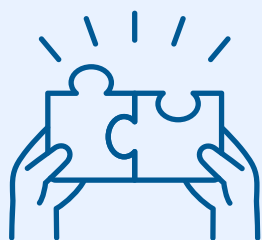
EI focuses on helping young children **achieve developmental milestones** and **empower families** to support their growth through services including:

- Speech therapy
- Physical therapy
- Vision and hearing support
- Parent coaching
- Home visiting

98% of services are delivered in home or community settings, emphasizing family-centered support.



99% of children receive timely services.



IDEA mandates the Early Intervention Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC), which aims to enhance EI services for infants, toddlers, and their families statewide. Parents, caregivers, and providers come together to support and ensure EI services are well coordinated, effective, and meet children's and families' needs.