



*LOUISIANA  
Parent Training  
and Information  
Center*

Promoting the appropriate education of children with disabilities.

*A program of Families Helping Families of Jefferson*

**201 Evans Road  
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Harahan, LA 70123  
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## **Attention Parents of Children with Disabilities The U. S. Department of Education Wants Your Opinion!**

Dear Louisiana Parents,

The United States Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) in Washington, D.C. is visiting two Louisiana state agencies in October 2009. OSEP will meet with Early Steps and Louisiana Department of Education for a verification visit to learn how the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is working for Louisiana families and their children.

OSEP has asked that parents take a brief survey to share their experiences. Responses are confidential, names will not be used and results will be presented in summary form. Your opinion is valuable and will help OSEP evaluate the impact of IDEA.

We are providing you with a hard copy. Feel free to add any additional comments. If you would prefer to complete the survey on line, please go to:

[http://www.kwiksurveys.com/online-survey.php?surveyID=OHMEK\\_5663759c](http://www.kwiksurveys.com/online-survey.php?surveyID=OHMEK_5663759c).

You can also call in your responses to the parent staff at the Louisiana Parent Training and Information Center. Please let other parents know about the survey and ask them to respond.

We look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your time. If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at 504-888-9111 or 800-766-7736.

Sincerely,

*Mary Jacob*

Mary Jacob  
Executive Director  
Louisiana Parent Training  
and Information Center

*Cindy Arceneaux*

Cindy Arceneaux  
Project Director  
Louisiana Parent Training  
and Information Center



6.	<p>How was your child referred for early intervention services? How did you get connected to Early Steps?  <i>Chose one:</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Hospital/Pediatrician/Doctor/Medical Provider  <input type="checkbox"/> School/Day Care  <input type="checkbox"/> Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities  <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Special Health Services  <input type="checkbox"/> Another Parent  <input type="checkbox"/> A Families Helping Families (FHF) Resource Center  <input type="checkbox"/> Early Steps Website or Materials (Flyer, brochure, notice)  <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy Organization/Support Groups  <input type="checkbox"/> Other type of Professional (<i>what type</i>) _____  <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure  <input type="checkbox"/> Other/Comment</p>
7.	<p>How old was your infant or toddler when he/she started getting Early Steps services.</p> <p>_____ Years      _____ Months</p>
8.	<p>In the past year, I know of problems in Louisiana created by not following Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) that been fixed.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
9.	<p>How long did it take from the time your child was referred to Early Steps to the time he/she started receiving services.  <i>Please check one and fill in the number:</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____ Days      <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Weeks      <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Months</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Still not receiving services.</p>
10.	<p>In the past year, I have asked Early Steps for one of the following ways to help solve a disagreement:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Individualized Family Service Plan meeting  <input type="checkbox"/> A meeting or call with the Family Service Coordinator  <input type="checkbox"/> A meeting or call with the Regional or State Early Steps Coordinator  <input type="checkbox"/> Systems Point of Entry (SPOE)  <input type="checkbox"/> Mediation  <input type="checkbox"/> Due Process  <input type="checkbox"/> State Complaint  <input type="checkbox"/> Does Not Apply  <input type="checkbox"/> Other/Comment</p>

11.	<p>If you had a disagreement with Early Steps that resulted in a mediation meeting or state complaint in the last year, did you get a mediation agreement or decision letter that talked about each of your concerns?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> Does Not Apply</p>
12.	<p>I was encouraged and supported to be an equal partner in the development of my child's Individual Family Support Plan (IFSP).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  Comments:</p>
13.	<p>My child received the services as listed on the IFSP.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  Comment:</p>
14.	<p>I know that Louisiana's Early Steps state agency is collecting information on early childhood outcomes to use in improving early intervention services.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
15.	<p>I know that Louisiana Early Steps has a State Performance Plan and an Annual Performance Report.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
16.	<p>I know the results of the U.S. Department of Education evaluation that shows how well Louisiana follows early intervention law and regulations (State Compliance Determination)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  Comment:</p>

17.	<p>I know how to get information about the Early Steps early intervention system and services in Louisiana.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes - Check how you find the information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Early Steps Website</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Early Steps Regional or State Staff</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> U. S. Department of Education Website</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> System Point of Entry (SPOE)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A Families Helping Families Resource Center</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy Organization or Support Group</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Louisiana Parent Training and Information Center</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pyramid Project Community Parent Resource Center</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Service Provider</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other/Comment</li> </ul>
18.	<p>My child has transitioned out of Early Steps. Information about preschool special education and other possible services and supports were given to my family by Early Steps before my child turned 3 years old.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes - How far in advance were you told: _____</p>
19.	<p>I've been notified and invited to participate in the regional and state Interagency Coordinating Councils that advise Early Steps.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Comment:</p>
20.	<p>I am a parent or family member who speaks a primary language other than English or uses alternative communication devices.</p> <p><i>Check all that applies:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The Systems Point of Entry (SPOE) sent information in my native language or alternate formats</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The Systems Point of Entry (SPOE) could communicate with me in my native language or alternate formats</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The Service Providers could communicate with me in my native language or alternate formats</li> </ul>

21.	Here is what I like about Early Steps:
22.	Here is what I dislike about Early Steps:
<p align="center"><b>Please answer the following questions about how well Louisiana is following Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for children with disabilities ages 3 - 21.</b></p>	
23.	<p>I have been informed of my parental rights and have been given a copy of procedural safeguards at least once per year in my native language or alternate format. Please check all that applies:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Comments:</p>
24.	<p>In the past year, I know of problems in Louisiana, created by not following the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) that have been fixed.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Comment:</p>

25.	<p>Based on my experience with special education in Louisiana, the areas need the most improvement:  <i>Please up to three:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No improvement is needed</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Special Education Evaluations</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Individualized Education Plans</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Related Services (Occupational, Physical, Speech Therapies)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Transportation to school/field trips/community outings</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Classroom Accommodations</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Complaint/Dispute Resolution/Due Process Hearings</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Teacher/Paraprofessional Quality</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Positive Behavior Supports</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Assistive Technology</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Access to General Education</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Parental Involvement</li> </ul> <p>Comment:</p>
26.	<p>In the past year, I've asked for one of the following to help solve a disagreement:  <i>Check all that applies:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Does Not Apply - I had no disagreement</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Request an IEP meeting</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Request a conference with school personnel</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Request a conference with district personnel</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Request a state IEP Facilitator to attend IEP meeting</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Early Resolution Process</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> File State Complaint</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Request Mediation</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Request Due Process</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Request support from Louisiana Parent Training and Information Center</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Request support from Pyramid Project Community Parent Resource Center</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Request support from a Families Helping Families Resource Center</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other/Comment:</li> </ul>

27.	<p>The mediation agreement or decision letter I received talked about each of my concerns:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> Does Not Apply</p>
28.	<p>I know how to find information on how well Louisiana and local school districts are educating students receiving special education services.  <i>Check all that applies:</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  Comment: I got this information from:</p>
29.	<p>I use the following resources to get information on how well Louisiana and local school districts provide special education services:  <i>Check all that applies:</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Local, State or U.S. Department of Education Websites  <input type="checkbox"/> School personnel  <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy Organization or Support Group  <input type="checkbox"/> LaDisability Talk  <input type="checkbox"/> Louisiana Parent Training and Information Center  <input type="checkbox"/> Pyramid Project Community Parent Resource Center  <input type="checkbox"/> A Families Helping Families Resource Center  <input type="checkbox"/> Louisiana Together Educating All Children (LaTEACH)  <input type="checkbox"/> Other/Comment</p>
30..	<p>I know about effective education strategies used in Louisiana that are improving the education of children with disabilities:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  Comment:</p>

31..	<p>The education system in Louisiana is doing a good job of educating students with disabilities.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Comment:</p>
32.	<p>The IEP team has placed my child with a disability in a private school:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
33.	<p>My child receives services in a private school that are similar or as good as the services he/she would receive in a public school in Louisiana:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Does not apply  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Comment:</p>
34.	<p>In preparing and attending for my child's individualized education plan (IEP) meeting:  <i>Check all that applies:</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I received written notice at least 10 days before the meeting  <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting was scheduled at a time and place convenient for me  <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting was held in my native language or used alternative format  <input type="checkbox"/> I felt like I was an equal member of the IEP team  <input type="checkbox"/> My parental concerns were discussed and listed on the IEP  <input type="checkbox"/> Placement was not decided in advance  <input type="checkbox"/> Least Restricted Environment was considered  <input type="checkbox"/> I understand Extended School Year (ESY) tracking and eligibility options  <input type="checkbox"/> My child was placed in their neighborhood school  <input type="checkbox"/> Special Education teacher was present  <input type="checkbox"/> At least one regular education teacher participated  <input type="checkbox"/> Official Designated Representative was present  <input type="checkbox"/> If transition age, community service provider agencies were present.</p>
35.	<p>I know the U. S. Department of Education measures how well Louisiana follow special education laws and regulations with (State Compliance Determination)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, I know how well Louisiana has done</p>

<b>Transition out of high school. Please complete this section if your child is 16 or over:</b>	
36.	<p>A transition plan was done on my child by his/her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know</p> <p>Comment:</p>
37.	<p>Other agencies were invited to attend my child's transition planning meeting:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
38.	<p>My child is being taught skills that will result in acceptance into an institute of higher education or employment:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
39.	<p>My child is 18 and have received written notification that legal rights were transfer to him/her:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Does not apply  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

Additional Comments: