

Ensure a Seamless Transition for RI's Youngest Learners with Disabilities

What is Early Intervention?

Early Intervention (EI) provides critical services for infants and toddlers with developmental delays. Under federal law (IDEA Part C), states must provide EI services to children under age 3. In Rhode Island, EI supports more than 4,000 children annually through nine nonprofit agencies.

The Problem: A Gap in Services

- When a child turns **3 years old**, they transition from EI (Part C) to **preschool special education (Part B)**, provided by their school district if they remain eligible.
- This transition process is **not seamless** and can result in a **service gap of several months**, especially for children with spring and summer birthdays.
- Missing services at this critical stage can delay progress and impact long-term development.

The Solution: Bills H7627/S2834

These bills would give families the option to continue EI services until September following their child's 3rd birthday, as long as they remain eligible for services.

- **Other states have done it!** Six states (CO, CT, IL, MD, MO, TN) and Washington, D.C., have extended EI services beyond age 3.
- This would enable the students who turn 3 between May 1st and August 31st to enroll and enter the school year **with their peers**, while ensuring **continuity of care** with trusted providers.
- Creates an **Implementation Advisory Board** to support families and providers in creating a system that works for everyone.



Funding & Cost

- 💰 EI funding currently comes from **60% Medicaid and 40% private insurance**.
- 💰 Every **\$1 spent by Rhode Island** brings in **\$3 in federal and private insurance funds**.
- 💰 Estimated state cost: **\$300,000 to \$400,000** per year when fully implemented.
- 💰 EI extension states receive mandatory additional federal EI funding.

What YOU Can Do!



Share Your Story

If your child has experienced a service gap or transition challenges, your voice matters! Testimony from professionals supporting children and families is also powerful. Email familyvoices@ripin.org to submit testimony.



Contact Your Legislators

Urge them to support H7627/S2834 and ensure all children get the support they need.

[Download the testimony template!](#)

