

Strong Beginnings

Quick Start Guide Section 13: Program Evaluation

Guidance for program evaluation at the local and ISD level is mostly the same

- Family Contact Logs and Family Surveys are used in addition to other sources of information to determine locally and regionally if the systems in place are working, whether there is efficient use of resources and how the program can best respond to child and family needs.

An approved instrument is used for program evaluation and a rating of 3 or higher on Great Start to Quality maintained.

- For research purposes, the Classroom Scoring System (CLASS) must be used by all Strong Beginnings pilot programs. Pilot sites may use an additional approved instrument if they wish to do so for local and regional purposes.
- Data for local and regional evaluation should be aggregated and analyzed at the program level so the data for Strong Beginnings is separated from that for GSRP. Data from both programs may also be combined for further analyses.
- When setting data-based goals for continuous improvement, plans for professional learning and the like, only data from Strong Beginnings classrooms should be utilized.
- Family Contact Logs should be reviewed by the family Liaison supervisor and discussed every other month at Family Liaison staff meetings. Yearly summaries should be used with other child and program data for continuous improvement planning.

A local/regional plan for follow-up of students through second grade is mostly the same.

- The local/regional evaluation should indicate whether children participated in Strong Beginnings and the data considered separately for children with one and two years of program experience.

There will also be statewide evaluation of the program as well as typical expectations for state and national evaluation.

- The Michigan State University Research Team will require information from children, parents, teachers, and Family Liaisons to determine what parts of the program are working and making a difference for children and families. ISDs and subrecipients are required to submit needed data in a timely manner and encourage and support the collection of data from

families. A list of data collected is included in the Strong Beginnings Pilot Implementation Manual.

Parents must be notified of program evaluation activities and programs must cooperate with MILEAP in terms of reporting requirements and other assistance with research.

- Strong Beginnings must cooperate with the MSU research team and the CCRESA implementation team in all requests for data and assistance.