

Strong Beginnings Inclusion Assurances Q and A

The CCRESA Strong Beginnings team received a few questions regarding the Assurances requirement; see below.

1. **Question:** What is the purpose of the Assurances requirement?

Answer: The Assurances serve as a reminder for ISDs that IDEA requirements regarding the provision of special education services in the least restrictive environment apply to Strong Beginnings just as they do to all other publicly funded PreK–12 classrooms.

2. **Question:** Our ISD team is planning to sign the Assurances but in our ISD it is really the LEAs that would be in charge of providing services to their preschool population. Do we need to have the LEAs sign the Assurances as well as the ISD?

Answer: No, only the ISD is required to sign.

3. **Question:** Many of the Assurances are not specific about how they will be carried out. For example, how should we communicate with families that inclusion is the norm within Strong Beginnings and what tools should be used for developmental screening?

Answer: Most of the assurances do not contain specific requirements in how they are to be implemented. This allows strategies to fit within existing ISD frameworks and practices.

4. **Question:** Who is expected to participate in the related training?

Answer: ISDs should send teams with representation from program teachers, classroom staff (including the family liaison), and special education. More information about the professional development will be forthcoming.