



Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

— Making a positive difference through education and service —

M E M O R A N D U M

DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

April 13, 2009

TO: First Steps providers

FROM: Pam Thomas, Coordinator for Early Intervention Services

RE: Update on SPOE regions and Early Intervention Teams

As you know, the System Point of Entry (SPOE) contracts have been awarded and information is now available to the public. The intent of this memorandum is to provide clarification to the new contract component that requires all SPOE agencies to begin implementing Early Intervention Teams (EIT).

Currently, there are 18 teams practicing EIT in specific areas of the state. The development of teams for the rest of the state will be a gradual process over the next 1 ½ years.

This gradual movement will allow time for the SPOE agencies to develop their EIT plan. Each SPOE agency submitted a draft and is contractually required to have their final EIT plan approved by DESE prior to implementing teams. A gradual movement will also allow time for reflection on the 'lessons learned' from practice teams as well as time to develop materials and training for providers.

According to the new contract, full implementation of EIT will not occur for several years. It will be 2013 before teams must be designated for every family in Missouri.

In upcoming months, DESE will schedule meetings with each SPOE to assist with the development of their EIT plan. During this time DESE will also provide messages to providers for additional clarification as well as updates in the quarterly newsletter, Provider Connections.

Thank you for your continued support of the First Steps early intervention program.