

Subject: New First Steps guidance on the web

Source: Pam Thomas, Coordinator, First Steps Program

Intended Audience: First Steps providers

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New guidance about eligibility is available on the First Steps website under Chapter 4: Eligibility Determination of the Practice Manual at: <http://dese.mo.gov/special-education/first-steps/practice-manual>.

While the Practice Manual is primarily intended for Service Coordinators, there are several sections that may be of interest to First Steps providers, including:

Chapter 4, Section IV: Developmental Delay (pages 10 – 12). This section includes information about half-age delay, communication and physical development, test scores and inconclusive information.

Chapter 4, Section IV: Developmental Delay (pages 12 - 14). This section includes information about using clinical opinion as the basis for eligibility determination, including the rationale for informed clinical opinion and required documentation.

Chapter 4, Section V: Transferring from Another State (page 15). This section includes information about eligibility determination when a child participating in early intervention moves to Missouri.

First Steps providers are encouraged to review the Practice Manual to ensure provider practices are in accordance with current guidance.