

# Prevention Initiative (PI)

Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)

## OVERVIEW

Prevention Initiative (PI) is one of two programs funded under the Early Childhood Block Grant, the purpose of which is to provide early, continuous, intensive, research-based, and comprehensive child development and family support services to help build a strong foundation for learning and to prepare children for later school success.

Grantees, which include school districts, social service agencies, and other entities, provide these services for expecting parents and families with children from birth to age 3 years who through a screening process have been determined to be at risk. Programs may be center-based and/or provide home visiting services and must use an evidence-based program model such as Parent As Teachers, Baby Talk, or Healthy Families. Program components include home/personal visits, links to community resources, group connections, screening, and individual family service planning.

## WHO IS SERVED?

### *Population(s)/Age Group:*

Expecting parents and families with children from birth to age 3 years

### *Eligibility Criteria and Screening Tools:*

The PI program is intended for children who have been determined to be at-risk for school failure as indicated by their families' high levels of poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, limited-English proficiency, or other need-related indicators (e.g., school district's rate of dropouts, retention, truancy, teenage pregnancies, and homeless students; high rates of infant mortality, birth trauma, low birth weight, or prematurity; and high rates of child abuse or neglect).

PI programs develop weighted criteria based upon the risk factors noted above, the risk factors present in the community, and those factors identified by research as causing children and families to be at risk. The weighted criteria form is completed with information obtained from the parent interview (to be conducted in the parents' home/native language, if necessary) and for children age four (4) months or older, results from a developmental screening with a research-based tool.

## HOW ARE SERVICES DELIVERED?

### *Local Service System*

Families may receive Prevention Initiative services through funded programs that are located in local schools, social service agencies, or other entities. A list of PI programs with contact information is available at <http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/html/directories.htm>.

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## *Referrals into Program*

Prevention Initiative programs actively seek out and identify children who may be eligible for the program and complete individual child screenings. In most communities, an annual community-wide screening is conducted as a collaborative effort between the PI program, Child Find, and other community partners. Families are also referred to PI programs through social service agencies, local schools, community based organizations, word of mouth, etc.

## *Data Systems Used*

PI grantees must report data for students and their caregivers in the Student Information System (SIS).

## **STATE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR OR CONTACT**

Cindy Zumwalt  
ISBE – Division Administrator – Early Childhood  
(217) 524-4835  
[czumwalt@isbe.net](mailto:czumwalt@isbe.net)

Program Website:  
<http://www.isbe.state.il.us/earlychi/html/birth-3.htm>