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MEMORANDUM

TO: Contact Persons – Local Early Steps
Contact Persons – Prekindergarten Program for Children with Disabilities

FROM: Sally Golden-McCord, Director
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SGM
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Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services
AG

DATE: October 25, 2013

SUBJECT: REVISIONS TO GUIDANCE ON USE OF THE BDI-2 SCREENING TEST IN FLORIDA'S CHILD OUTCOMES MEASUREMENT SYSTEM

The purpose of this memo is to provide revised guidance on the permissible use of the Battelle Developmental Inventory (2nd Ed.; BDI-2) Screening Test (Newborg, 2005). This information represents the most current guidance and supersedes all previous guidance related to use of the BDI-2 Screening Test in the context of Florida's Child Outcomes Measurement System. The guidance described in this memo is effective immediately.

Background Information

The content of this memo relates specifically to the use of testing instruments for purposes of the child outcomes measurement system and does not address eligibility. School districts and Local Early Steps (LES) are reminded that **screening results are not sufficient for determining initial eligibility** as an infant, toddler, or preschooler with a disability. If the BDI-2 is administered as a standardized instrument used for the purpose of determining initial eligibility as an infant, toddler or preschooler with a disability, the full assessment tool must be used. Within Part C programs, screening results from progress monitoring may be used by the Individualized Family Support Planning team to determine an infant or toddler's continuing eligibility after the initial eligibility has already been determined.

Definitions

The Office of Special Education Programs uses the term "level comparable to same-aged peers" in the measurement tables for State Performance Plan Indicators C3 and B7. Understanding Florida's definition of this term is critical to decision-making with regard to use of the BDI-2 Screening Test. For accountability purposes, the level comparable to same-aged peers is defined as >-1.5 standard deviations on either the BDI-2 Full Assessment or Screening Test. For any domain of the BDI-2 Screening Test, a result of "pass," using the required cut-score of -1.5 SD, indicates a level "comparable to same-aged peers."

Guidance on Use of the BDI-2 Screening Test

The following information is intended to provide guidance to LES and school districts regarding when the results of the Screening Test may be used for accountability purposes. Please note—throughout the memo, there is a reference to “either raw or item-level scores.” LES and school districts will enter either raw or item-level scores based on the option that each entity has elected.

Use of the BDI-2 Screening Test within Early Steps - Program Entry

For the purpose of the statewide Child Outcomes reporting system, including reports developed as part of the state’s Annual Performance Report (APR), effective July 1, 2012, only the following three domains are required for the BDI-2 Full Assessment or Screening Test at entry and exit: Personal-social, Communication and Adaptive. However, individual LES and school districts may require all five domains to be reported for program or district purposes.

This does not apply to use of the BDI-2 assessment for the purpose of initial eligibility determination. If an assessment other than the BDI-2 is used for initial eligibility determination, then it is allowable to start the accountability assessment for program entry (Part C entry) with the BDI-2 Screening Test. The raw or item level scores of the domains of the Screening Test must be entered into the Data Manager, regardless of whether the outcome, using a cut-score of -1.5 SD, is “pass” or “refer.” For any of the three domains in which the child is NOT functioning comparable to same-aged peers, the Screening Test must be followed up with the full assessment in those failed domain(s). That is, the full assessment must be administered for any Screening Test domain scored “refer,” and the scores for the full assessment of the domains administered, either raw or item-level, entered into a new assessment record for the child.

Note regarding entry of data into the Data Manager: When entering data from domains of a full assessment that are administered as a follow-up to one or more domains on the Screening Test that were scored “refer,” it is necessary to create a new assessment record in the Data Manager.

To create a new assessment record and enter the scores:

- Search for the child’s existing record in the Data Manager
- Select “New Complete Assessment”
- Enter the assessment scores for whatever domains were administered

If item-level data are being entered, ALL item-level scores for the applicable-domain(s) must be entered, including scores for items that were administered as part of the Screening Test and were not re-administered because the follow-up full assessment was conducted within the two-week window permitted by the BDI-2 Examiner’s Manual. At this point, there is no way to have the Data Manager populate a new assessment record with item-level scores from a previously administered Screening Test. The data point for the full assessment should match the data point entered for the Screening Test. For example, if the Screening Test was conducted as a Part C entry, the data point for the follow-up full assessment, for any domain administered, should also be entered in Program Note 2 as a Part C entry.

Use of the BDI-2 Screening Test within Early Steps - Program Exit Child NOT TRANSITIONING to Part B

For a child who is **not transitioning to Part B**, it is allowable to start the accountability assessment for Part C program exit with the Screening Test. The raw or item-level scores for any of the three domains (Personal-social, Communication and Adaptive) of the Screening Test must be entered into the Data Manager. For any of the three domains in which the results of the Screening Test indicate that the child is NOT functioning comparable to same aged peers, the Screening Test must be followed-up with the full assessment. That is, the full assessment must be administered for any Screening Test domain scored “refer,” and the scores for the full assessment of the domains administered, either raw or item-level, entered into a new assessment record for the child. For example, if the child is administered the Screening Test and he passes the Adaptive and Personal-Social domains but he does not pass (i.e. receives a “refer” using a cut-score of -1.5) the communication domain, the communication domain must be administered using the full BDI-2. In this circumstance, LES assessors are advised to consider the child’s need for a more comprehensive evaluation and the possibility of revisiting plans for transition.

Note regarding entry of data into the Data Manager: When entering data from domains of a full assessment that are administered as a follow-up to one or more domains on the Screening Test that were scored “refer,” it is necessary to create a new assessment record in the Data Manager.

To create a new assessment record and enter the scores:

- Search for the child’s existing record in the Data Manager
- Select “New Complete Assessment”
- Enter the assessment scores for whatever domains were administered

If item-level data are being entered, ALL item-level scores for the applicable domain(s) must be entered, including scores for items that were administered as part of the Screening Test and were not re-administered because the follow-up full assessment was conducted within the two-week window permitted by the BDI-2 Examiner’s Manual. At this point, there is no way to have the Data Manager populate a new assessment record with item-level scores from a previously administered Screening Test. The data point for the full assessment should match the data point entered for the Screening Test. For example, if the Screening Test was conducted as a Part C exit, the data point for the follow-up full assessment, for any domain administered, should also be entered as a Part C exit.

Use of the BDI-2 Screening Test within Early Steps - Program Exit Child TRANSITIONING to Part B

Children determined eligible for Part C prior to age 30 months must be included in the Early Steps accountability system, as it is anticipated that they will receive at least six months of service. **If it has been determined that the BDI-2 will not be used for Part B eligibility consideration**, it is allowable to begin the exit assessment with the Screening Test. In this circumstance, the raw or item-level scores of the Screening Test must be entered into the Data Manager. For any of the three domains in which the results of the Screening Test indicate that the child is NOT functioning comparable to same aged peers, the Screening Test must be followed up with the full assessment for the Screening Test domain that in which a child scored “refer.” That is, the full assessment must be administered for any of the three Screening Test domains scored “refer,” and the scores for the full assessment domains administered, either raw or item-level, entered into a new assessment record for the child.

Note regarding entry of data into the Data Manager: When entering data from domains of a full assessment that are administered as a follow-up to one or more domains on the Screening Test that were scored “refer,” it is necessary to create a new assessment record in the Data Manager.

To create a new assessment record and enter the scores:

- Search for the child’s existing record in the Data Manager
- Select “New Complete Assessment”
- Enter the assessment scores for whatever domains were administered

If item-level data are being entered, ALL item-level scores for the applicable domain(s) must be entered, including scores for items that were administered as part of the Screening Test and were not re-administered because the follow-up full assessment was conducted within the two-week window permitted by the BDI-2 Examiner’s Manual. At this point, there is no way to have the Data Manager populate a new assessment record with item-level scores from a previously administered Screening Test. The data point for the full assessment should match the data point entered for the Screening Test. For example, if the Screening Test was conducted as a Part C exit, the data point for the follow-up full assessment, for any of the three domains administered, should also be entered as a Part C exit.

Use of the BDI-2 Screening Test within the Preschool Special Education Program Entry

For the purpose of the statewide Child Outcomes reporting system, including reports developed as part of the state’s Annual Performance Report (APR), effective July 1, 2012, only the following three domains are required for the BDI-2 Full Assessment or Screening Test at entry and exit: Personal-social, Communication and Adaptive. However, individual LES and school districts may require all five domains to be reported for program or district purposes.

For children **who are not transitioning from Early Steps**, and for whom assessments **other than the BDI-2 are conducted for eligibility determination**, it is allowable to start the accountability assessment for program entry (Part B entry) with the Screening Test. (For children **who are transitioning from Early Steps, see page 3.**) The raw or item level scores of the domains of the Screening Test must be entered into the Data Manager, regardless of whether the outcome, using a cut-score of -1.5 SD, is “pass” or “refer.” For any of the three domains in which the child is NOT functioning comparable to same-aged peers, the Screening Test must be followed-up with the full assessment in those failed domain(s). That is, the full assessment must be administered for any Screening Test domain scored “refer,” and the scores for the full assessment of the domains administered, either raw or item-level, entered into a new assessment record for the child.

Note regarding entry of data into the Data Manager: When entering data from domains of a full assessment that are administered as a follow-up to one or more domains on the Screening Test that were scored “refer,” it is necessary to create a new assessment record in the data manager.

To create a new assessment record and enter the scores:

- Search for the child’s existing record in the data manager
- Select “New Complete Assessment”
- Enter the assessment scores for whatever domains were administered

If item-level data are being entered, ALL item-level scores for the applicable domain(s) must be entered, including scores for items that were administered as part of the Screening Test and were not re-administered because the follow-up full assessment was conducted within the two-week window permitted by the BDI-2 Examiner's Manual. At this point, there is no way to have the Data Manager populate a new assessment record with item-level scores from a previously administered Screening Test. The data point for the full assessment should match the data point entered for the Screening Test. For example, if the Screening Test was conducted as a Part B exit, the data point for the follow-up full assessment, for any domain administered, should also be entered as a Part B exit.

Use of the BDI-2 Screening Test within the Preschool Special Education Program Exit

For all children exiting preschool, it is allowable to start the accountability assessment for program exit (Part B exit) with the Screening Test. The raw or item-level scores for any of the three required domains (Personal-social, Communication and Adaptive) plus scores for the other two domains, if assessed, must be entered into the Data Manager. The decision as to whether the Screening Test result needs to be followed up with a full assessment in a given domain is based on the child's entry scores and Screening Test exit results (pass or refer), as indicated below:

Entry typical; exit typical (Screening Test result of "pass"): Full not required.
Entry typical; exit BELOW typical (Screening Test result of "refer"): Full not required.
Entry BELOW typical; exit typical (Screening Test result of "pass"): Full not required.
Entry BELOW typical; exit BELOW typical (Screening Test result of "refer"): Full REQUIRED.

Scores for any full assessment that is administered, either raw or item-level, must be entered into a new assessment record for the child.

Note 1: In the previous Screening Test memo dated August 20, 2010, the above guidance applied only to speech-only children. The above guidance should now be applied to all children exiting preschool.

Note 2: If the results of the child's entry assessment are not available to the assessor, such that the child's performance on the entry assessment is not known at the time of testing, then any result of refer must be followed up with a full assessment.

Note regarding entry of data into the Data Manager: when entering data from a full assessment that is administered as a follow-up to one or more domains on the Screening Test that were scored "refer," it is necessary to create a new assessment record in the Data Manager.

To create a new assessment record and enter the scores:

- Search for the child's existing record in the Data Manager
- Select "New Complete Assessment"
- Enter the assessment scores for whatever domains were administered

If item-level data are being entered, ALL item-level scores for the applicable domain(s) must be entered, including scores for items that were administered as part of the Screening Test and were not re-administered because the follow-up full assessment was conducted within the

two-week window permitted by the BDI-2 Examiner's Manual. At this point, there is no way to have the Data Manager populate a new assessment record with item-level scores from a previously administered Screening Test. The data point for the full assessment should match the data point entered for the Screening Test. For example, if the Screening Test was conducted as a Part B exit, the data point for the follow-up full assessment, for any domain administered, should also be entered as a Part B exit.

If you or your staff members have questions regarding this memo, please contact the following individuals:

- Sally Golden-McCord, Director, Performance Improvement Unit, Florida Department of Health, Children's Medical Services, Early Steps State Office. Ms. Golden-McCord may be reached at 850-245-4200, extension 3211 or by email at Sally_Golden-McCord@doh.state.fl.us.
- Anne Glass, Educational Program Director, or Janie Register, Program Specialist for the Prekindergarten Program for Children with Disabilities, Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services. Ms. Glass and Ms. Register may be reached at 850-245-0475 or by email at Anne.Glass@fldoe.org or Janie.Register@fldoe.org.

We appreciate your support and assistance as we continue to implement improvements in the child outcomes measurement system.

SGM/AG/ss

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