

**Guiding Principles in Developing Florida's System for
Measuring Child and Family Outcomes of Early Steps and
Preschool Special Education and Related Services**

Florida's system for measuring child and family outcomes of Early Steps and Preschool Special Education and Related Services should:

1. Meet federal and state reporting requirements.
2. Embrace shared beliefs about measurement and assessment practices across the Early Steps system and the Section 619 Preschool Program.
3. Establish and maintain mutual respect and trust among team members.
4. Minimize burden and provide supports, to the extent possible, for the full and ongoing involvement of stakeholders including families, providers, and representatives of local and state programs.
5. Address individual, cultural, linguistic, and developmental needs, to the extent possible.
6. Utilize objective measures that are reliable, valid, and meaningful and that are based on sound developmental principles.
7. Utilize a single child outcome assessment instrument that is norm-referenced and incorporates multiple sources of information.
8. Establish consistent statewide processes and procedures for data collection.
9. Ensure the confidentiality of child assessment data and family data by creating and maintaining a secure data system.
10. Produce and share information, including results that contribute to data-informed decision-making at both the team and system level.
11. Draw upon data in existing databases, to the extent possible.