

# Public Participation

## Public Participation (34 CFR §§303.101(c) and 303.208)

(a) Application. Alabama in compliance with this regulation at least 60 days prior to submitting to the Department, its application for funds under this part (including any policies, procedures, descriptions, methods, certifications, assurances and other information required in the application) publishes in a manner that ensured circulation throughout the State for at least a 60-day period, with an opportunity for public comment on the application for at least 30 days during that period.

(b) State Policies and Procedures.

ADRS-

(1) Holds public hearings on the new policy or procedure (including any revision to an existing policy or procedure);

(2) Will provide notice of the hearings held in accordance with paragraph (b)(1) of this section at least 30 days before the hearings are conducted to enable public participation; and

(3) Will provide an opportunity for the general public, including individuals with disabilities, parents of infants and toddlers with disabilities, EIS providers, and the members of the Council, to comment for at least 30 days on the new policy or procedure (including any revision to an existing policy or procedure) needed to comply with part C of the Act and these regulations.

(c) Approval before implementation.

Alabama obtains approval by the Secretary before implementing any policy or procedure required to be submitted as part of the State's application in §§ 303.203, 303.204, 303.206, 303.207, 303.208, 303.209, and 303.211.

A Notice of the public comment period will be sent out to families, EI providers, stakeholders and general public announcing the comment period; the timeframe for comment; how to submit comments and time and location of the hearings, if a public hearing is to be held. The notice will also contain information regarding how to access the policies and procedures that are available for comment. ADRS website is one avenue of providing access to these materials. Technology such as a PolyCom system may be used to provide opportunities for participation of families, EI providers, stakeholders and the general public during the comment period.

*NOTE: All public hearings conducted are accessible to individuals with disabilities and to those of limited English proficiency. Directions regarding how to access any accommodations (Braille, large print, interpreters, etc.) will be indicated within the public hearing notice.*