



The Early Development Network Co-Leads are providing additional clarification and guidance regarding the **October 29, 2021 Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Q/As**, specific to OSEP QA 21-07 Question #4 regarding virtual screening and/or evaluation, and OSEP QA 21-08 Question #5 regarding a parental request for virtual early intervention services. Please contact the Co-leads with additional questions as they arise.

Question #4 of the October 2021 OSEP Q/A 21-07 addresses if a State Lead Agency and its Early Intervention Service providers can conduct a virtual screening or evaluation of the infant or toddler if a parent requests it instead of an in-person screening or evaluation. Further clarification is provided below:

- *As stated in the OSEP QA document, as State Lead Agencies and Early Intervention Services providers return to in-person services, they should also prepare to return to in-person screening and evaluations. The OSEP QA document advises that if a parent requests a screening or evaluation be conducted virtually the State Lead Agency (in Nebraska, the Departments of Education and Health and Human Services) must first determine if its policies permit virtual screenings and/or evaluations. Nebraska's policies and procedures do not allow virtual screenings or evaluations, therefore it is not permissible to complete these processes virtually other than as a temporary response to local COVID-19 conditions.*

Question #5 of the October 2021 OSEP Q/A 21-08 addresses what the IFSP team should consider if a parent requests that early intervention services are provided virtually as a method of delivery. Further clarification is provided below:

- *As stated in the OSEP Q/A document, the State Lead Agency and its Early Intervention service providers may be able to provide IFSP services virtually depending on the State's policies and procedures. Nebraska's policies and procedures do not support the provision of virtual early intervention services. In addition, the evidence based practices utilized in Nebraska (Routines Based Interview, Getting Ready) are evidenced based in in-person delivery and not virtual delivery. It is not permissible, in Nebraska, to provide virtual Early Intervention services outside of a temporary response to local COVID-19 conditions.*