

- (1) an amendment is made to this chapter, or a Federal regulation issued under this chapter;
- (2) a new interpretation of this chapter is made by a Federal court or the State's highest court; or
- (3) an official finding of noncompliance with Federal law or regulations is made with respect to the State.

(Pub. L. 91-230, title VI, § 637, as added Pub. L. 108-446, title I, § 101, Dec. 3, 2004, 118 Stat. 2752.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 1437, Pub. L. 91-230, title VI, § 637, as added Pub. L. 105-17, title I, § 101, June 4, 1997, 111 Stat. 112, related to State application and assurances, prior to the general amendment of subchapters I to IV of this chapter by Pub. L. 108-446.

**§ 1438. Uses of funds**

In addition to using funds provided under section 1433 of this title to maintain and implement the statewide system required by such section, a State may use such funds—

- (1) for direct early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities, and their families, under this subchapter that are not otherwise funded through other public or private sources;
- (2) to expand and improve on services for infants and toddlers and their families under this subchapter that are otherwise available;
- (3) to provide a free appropriate education, in accordance with subchapter II, to children with disabilities from their third birthday to the beginning of the following school year;
- (4) with the written consent of the parents, to continue to provide early intervention services under this subchapter to children with disabilities from their 3rd birthday until such children enter, or are eligible under State law to enter, kindergarten, in lieu of a free appropriate public education provided in accordance with subchapter II; and
- (5) in any State that does not provide services for at-risk infants and toddlers under section 1437(a)(4) of this title, to strengthen the statewide system by initiating, expanding, or improving collaborative efforts related to at-risk infants and toddlers, including establishing linkages with appropriate public or private community-based organizations, services, and personnel for the purposes of—

- (A) identifying and evaluating at-risk infants and toddlers;
- (B) making referrals of the infants and toddlers identified and evaluated under subparagraph (A); and
- (C) conducting periodic follow-up on each such referral to determine if the status of the infant or toddler involved has changed with respect to the eligibility of the infant or toddler for services under this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 91-230, title VI, § 638, as added Pub. L. 108-446, title I, § 101, Dec. 3, 2004, 118 Stat. 2755.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 1438, Pub. L. 91-230, title VI, § 638, as added Pub. L. 105-17, title I, § 101, June 4, 1997, 111 Stat. 114, related to uses of funds, prior to the general amendment of subchapters I to IV of this chapter by Pub. L. 108-446.

**§ 1439. Procedural safeguards**

**(a) Minimum procedures**

The procedural safeguards required to be included in a statewide system under section 1435(a)(13) of this title shall provide, at a minimum, the following:

(1) The timely administrative resolution of complaints by parents. Any party aggrieved by the findings and decision regarding an administrative complaint shall have the right to bring a civil action with respect to the complaint in any State court of competent jurisdiction or in a district court of the United States without regard to the amount in controversy. In any action brought under this paragraph, the court shall receive the records of the administrative proceedings, shall hear additional evidence at the request of a party, and, basing its decision on the preponderance of the evidence, shall grant such relief as the court determines is appropriate.

(2) The right to confidentiality of personally identifiable information, including the right of parents to written notice of and written consent to the exchange of such information among agencies consistent with Federal and State law.

(3) The right of the parents to determine whether they, their infant or toddler, or other family members will accept or decline any early intervention service under this subchapter in accordance with State law without jeopardizing other early intervention services under this subchapter.

(4) The opportunity for parents to examine records relating to assessment, screening, eligibility determinations, and the development and implementation of the individualized family service plan.

(5) Procedures to protect the rights of the infant or toddler whenever the parents of the infant or toddler are not known or cannot be found or the infant or toddler is a ward of the State, including the assignment of an individual (who shall not be an employee of the State lead agency, or other State agency, and who shall not be any person, or any employee of a person, providing early intervention services to the infant or toddler or any family member of the infant or toddler) to act as a surrogate for the parents.

(6) Written prior notice to the parents of the infant or toddler with a disability whenever the State agency or service provider proposes to initiate or change, or refuses to initiate or change, the identification, evaluation, or placement of the infant or toddler with a disability, or the provision of appropriate early intervention services to the infant or toddler.

(7) Procedures designed to ensure that the notice required by paragraph (6) fully informs the parents, in the parents' native language, unless it clearly is not feasible to do so, of all procedures available pursuant to this section.

(8) The right of parents to use mediation in accordance with section 1415 of this title, except that—

- (A) any reference in the section to a State educational agency shall be considered to be a reference to a State's lead agency estab-