

## Quick Start Guide

	What it is	How to use it
<b>Volume I: Measures</b>	Describes the JCAMP performance measures in five topical categories	Start here to learn about performance measures in five categories: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Family engagement</li> <li>2. Due process</li> <li>3. High-quality legal representation</li> <li>4. Safety</li> <li>5. Permanency</li> </ol>
<b>Volume II: Implementation Guide</b>	Guides users to effectively implement the measures and use the data	Learn about the structure and processes you should have in place before and during data collection, including strategies for interpreting and using your data results.
<b>Volume III: Implementation Toolbox</b>	Compiles tools for each implementation step described in Volume II, including sample data collection instruments	Complete these tools to select and prioritize measures that fit your needs, plan for data collection, use or adapt data collection instruments, and plan for data use and sustainability.
<b>Volume IV: Technical Guide</b>	Provides information about how to calculate each measure using different data collection methods	Follow the instructions for your selected measures about how to collect needed data, calculate measures, and conduct analyses.
<b>Volume V: Background and Research</b>	Describes the methods used to develop the measures and discusses supporting research evidence and best-practice recommendations for each measurement category	Learn about the supporting research and best-practice recommendations for each measure. Use this information when prioritizing measures and generating support for data collection.

## Important Information

- JCAMP measures are organized into five color-coded topical categories.



- Each topical category has Court Process, Professional Practice, and Family Experience measures.

	What they do	Example
<b>Court process measures</b>	Measure what happens in the court process, including before, during, and after court. Meant to serve as a starting point for measurement.	3.1 Do parent attorneys attend hearings?
<b>Professional practice measures</b>	Measure what judges and attorneys do during and between hearings.	3.5 How do parent attorneys ensure they provide high-quality legal representation?
<b>Family experience measures</b>	Measure how families experience and perceive the child welfare court system.	3.8 Are parents satisfied with their attorneys' representation?

- Measures were developed using the following **guiding principles**. The measures must–
  - Highlight the child and family experience
  - Incorporate equity into implementation and analysis
  - Be usable and flexible for sites and court stakeholders to inform practice
  - Be feasible for sites with varying data capacity to implement
  - Be guided by research evidence and best-practice recommendations
  - Include theories of change for each measure that describe how the measure relates to outcomes for children and families
  - Complement the existing court measures and Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSR) measures



- The measures were developed through an **iterative process** with feedback from judges, attorneys, court administrators, Court Improvement Program staff, system-impacted parents, adults with lived expertise as youth who experienced the foster care system, researchers, and federal partners.
- The measures were designed to support **continuous quality improvement**, not to set standards.
- The measures are not exhaustive of all possible measures in each topic, but rather meant as **starting points for measurement**. They were designed to provide a manageable set of measures that can be prioritized and adapted by sites.
  - You don't have to use all the measures once. You can start small, selecting measures that fit your highest priorities and build from there.
- You may work through the volumes **in order or skip around** according to your needs. For example, after reviewing the measures in **Volume I**, you may want to skip to **Volume IV: Technical Guide** to understand variables needed for individual measures.
- Follow six steps to **select and implement** the measures (see **Volume II: Implementation Guide** for details).
  - Step 1: Form your team
  - Step 2: Select and prioritize measures
  - Step 3: Visualize your path
  - Step 4: Get your data
  - Step 5: Use your data
  - Step 6: Sustain your performance measure efforts
- When collecting data for the measures, you should always collect **child demographic data** (e.g., child race, ethnicity, age, Indian Child Welfare Act status). These data are essential to exploring disparate outcomes among racial and ethnic groups. See **Volume IV: Technical Guide** for more information.
- The list of measures below is a **quick reference** list. Each measure is fully described in **Volume I: Measures** and **Volume IV: Technical Guide**.



## JCAMP Measures Quick Reference List

1. Family engagement measures	
1.1	Do parents attend hearings?
1.2	Do children and youth attend hearings?
1.3	Do tribal representatives attend hearings?
1.4	Do foster parents and relative caregivers attend hearings?
1.5	Do courts send orders to parties or provide them at the end of the hearing?
1.6	What do judges do to engage parents, children, and youth in hearings?
1.7	What do judges do to engage foster parents and relative caregivers in hearings?
1.8	How do parent attorneys engage parents in the process?
1.9	How do child or youth attorneys and/or attorney guardians ad litem (GALs) engage children and youth in the process?
1.10	How do prosecuting (or agency or state) attorneys engage parents, children, and youth in the process?
1.11	Are important issues discussed in hearings?
1.12	Do parents feel judges engaged them in hearings?
1.13	Do children and youth feel judges engaged them in hearings?
1.14	Do foster parents and relative caregivers feel judges engaged them in hearings?
2. Due process measures	
2.1	Do parties to the case receive timely service?
2.2	Are child or youth attorneys and/or attorney GALs appointed early in the case?
2.3	Are parent attorneys appointed early in the case?
2.4	Do parties to the case receive timely notice of hearings?
2.5	Are Indian children identified early in the case?
2.6	What do judges do to ensure fair hearings?
2.7	How do prosecuting (or agency or state) attorneys ensure fair hearings?
2.8	How do parent attorneys ensure fair hearings?
2.9	How do child or youth attorneys and/or attorney GALs ensure fair hearings?
2.10	Do parents feel they were treated fairly?
2.11	Do children and youth feel they were treated fairly?
3. High-quality legal representation measures	
3.1	Do parent attorneys attend hearings?
3.2	Do child or youth attorneys and/or attorney GALs attend hearings?
3.3	Do prosecuting (or agency or state) attorneys attend hearings?
3.4	Do multidisciplinary members of the legal team attend hearings?
3.5	How do parent attorneys ensure they provide high-quality legal representation?
3.6	How do child or youth attorneys and/or attorney GALs ensure they provide high-quality legal representation?
3.7	How do prosecuting (or agency or state) attorneys ensure they provide high-quality legal representation?
3.8	Are parents satisfied with their attorneys' representation?
3.9	Are children and youth satisfied with their legal representation?
3.10	How do parents, children, and youth feel they were treated by prosecuting (or agency or state) attorneys?



#### 4. Safety measures

- 4.1 How often and at what points in the case do courts make a finding of reasonable or active efforts to prevent removal? How often is the finding that the agency made “no reasonable efforts”?
- 4.2 How do courts discuss safety and removal?
- 4.3 How do courts discuss the agency’s reasonable or active efforts to prevent removal?
- 4.4 Do attorneys cross-examine reasonable or active efforts to prevent removal?
- 4.5 Do attorneys raise the issue of reasonable or active efforts if not raised?
- 4.6 Do prosecuting (or agency or state) attorneys offer information or evidence about the agency’s reasonable or active efforts to the court?
- 4.7 Do judges ask about the agency’s efforts to prevent removal?
- 4.8 Do judges make detailed reasonable or active efforts findings that explain how the agency has worked with the family to prevent removal?
- 4.9 Do judges consider parents’ protective capacities in determining whether to remove, maintain, or return the child home?
- 4.10 Do parents understand the safety threats to the child and how those led to the child’s removal?
- 4.11 Do parents understand the conditions for return of the child?
- 4.12 Do parents believe judges considered their protective capacities in decision-making regarding removal and return?
- 4.13 Do parents feel their voices were heard in safety planning discussions?
- 4.14 Do children and youth feel their voices were heard in safety discussions?

#### 5. Permanency measures

- 5.1 How much time does it take until the first permanency hearing?
- 5.2 How much time does it take to file the termination of parental rights petition?
- 5.3 How much time does it take until the termination of parental rights?
- 5.4 How often and at what points in the case do courts make a finding of reasonable or active efforts to reunify or finalize permanency?
- 5.5 How often and at what points in the case are continuances granted?
- 5.6 How many termination of parental rights decisions are appealed?
- 5.7 How do courts discuss permanency?
- 5.8 Do judges ask about what is preventing the child or youth from safely returning home today?
- 5.9 Do judges ask about parents’ access to and receipt of relevant services?
- 5.10 Do judges order any relevant services to support reunification/permanency?
- 5.11 How do court orders address family time?
- 5.12 Do judges make detailed reasonable or active efforts to achieve permanency findings that explain how the agency has worked to reunify the family or achieve permanency?
- 5.13 What information or evidence about reasonable or active efforts to reunify or finalize permanency do prosecuting (or agency or state) attorneys present to the court?
- 5.14 Do prosecuting (or agency or state) attorneys file motions and petitions related to permanency goals in a timely manner?
- 5.15 Do parent attorneys advocate for reunification in hearings?
- 5.16 Do child or youth attorneys and/or attorney GALs advocate for reunification or other permanency in hearings?
- 5.17 Why are continuances granted?
- 5.18 Do parents feel their voices were heard in permanency planning discussions?
- 5.19 Do parents understand what is required of them and steps needed to have their child returned?
- 5.20 Do parents feel services met their needs and assisted them in reunification?
- 5.21 Do parents feel they were able to engage in meaningful family time?
- 5.22 Do children and youth feel their voices were heard in permanency decisions?

