Creating a Cradle to Career Data System
Why Early Childhood Data Are Critical

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Early Childhood Data Collaborative
www.ecedata.org

Mission
The Early Childhood Data Collaborative (ECDC) promotes policies and practices to support the development and use of coordinated, longitudinal state early care and education (ECE) data systems.

Guiding Principles
- From compliance-driven to improvement-driven data systems
- From fragmented data systems to coordinated data systems
- From “snapshot” data to longitudinal data systems
In partnership with:

• The Center for the Study of Child Care Employment at UC Berkeley
• Council of Chief State School Officers
• Data Quality Campaign
• National Conference of State Legislatures
• National Governor’s Association, Center for Best Practices
Why Are Early Childhood Data Critical?

• Birth-8 is a critical time period for children in achieving positive health, learning, and economic outcomes later in life.

• The need for data during this period is growing to understand the impacts of early childhood interventions and services.

• Data about young children, including longitudinal data, typically cannot be connected together.
Integrating Data to Support Children’s Learning
Uses of Integrated Early Childhood Data

To support cross-agency goals:

• target services to children with the greatest needs
• conduct meaningful research to inform and improve ECE services
• narrow racial and economic achievement gaps
Efforts to Integrate Education Data

• Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) Grant Program
  – 51 states were awarded $721 million in grants
  – California received two grants

• Race to the Top- Early Learning Challenge
  – 20 states were awarded $1 billion in grants
  – 10 states prioritized data systems development

12019 SLDS Best Practices Conference
2Rising to the Challenge: Building Effective Systems for Young Children and Families, a BUILD E-Book-Chapter 7: Stacking the Blocks: A Look at Integrated Data Strategies
Status of linking child-level data across ECE programs

- State links data between all or some ECE programs
- State is planning to link data
- State does not link data

Click on a state to view a profile of its detailed performance.
A **single source** in NC for integrated early childhood data for selected education, health and social services programs

Example of questions that can now be answered with NC-ECIDS:

1. How many children are receiving multiple services?
   — What are the demographics of children who are receiving 3, 4, or 5 services?
   — Is there geographic variation where children are receiving larger or fewer numbers of services?

2. How many children who are pre-K age eligible are not in NC Pre-K are **receiving other types of services** (e.g., subsidized child care, TANF, food and nutrition services)?
Current Participating Programs:
• NC Pre-K
• Subsidized child care
• Early Intervention - IDEA, Part C
• Special Education - IDEA Part B (619)
• Food & Nutrition Services
• Child Protective Services

Planned for the future:
• Head Start/EHS
• Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
• EC Workforce data
• Child Care Regulatory Data

Number of Children Receiving Multiple Services (N=339,413)

- 72.8% Children receiving one service
- 27.2% Children receiving two or more services

• Public standard aggregate reports
• Report customizer
• Data request process
7 Key Areas to Focus on For Implementation

1. *Stakeholder Engagement
2. Data Governance
3. Privacy, Security, and Transparency
4. Linking, Matching, and Sharing
5. Data Access and Use
6. Data Quality
7. State Capacity
Stakeholder Engagement

• Process to **systematically and meaningfully** involve those directly or indirectly affected from the outset
  – Input on policy questions the data system will answer
  – Develop transparent privacy protection and security practices and policies
  – Communicate how data will and will not be used
  – Feedback on uses and dissemination of data (e.g. reports, research, etc.)
Intended Users and Uses

- All Users (general public, participating state agencies, policymakers, researchers)
  - Standard Reports
  - Query/Customizable Reports

- Internal and External Researchers
  - Dedicated data request portal for individual research requests
  - Research stakeholder group
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