HOW POLICYMAKERS CAN SUPPORT EARLY CHILDHOOD DATA GOVERNANCE
AGENDA

- Overview of NCSL
- Highlight of Early Learning Fellows Program
- Importance of accurate integrated data
- Status of ECE data systems
- Key components of data governance
- State examples
- Policy considerations
- Q & A
Bipartisan organization serving legislators and staff in all 50 states and territories:

- Improve the quality and effectiveness of state legislatures.
- Provide state legislatures a strong, cohesive voice at the federal level.
- Promote policy innovation and communication among state legislatures.
NCSL’S EARLY LEARNING FELLOWS PROGRAM

Current cohort:
- 24 legislators
- 2 legislative staff
- representing 13 states

Alumni:
- 189 legislators
- 25 legislative staff

Program:
- rigorous application process
- 2 in-person meetings
- 2 webinars
- peer learning opportunity

www.ncsl.org/fellows8
PRESENTERS

Carlise King
- Executive Director of the Early Childhood Data Collaborative at Child Trends.
- Specializes in effective strategies for data integration and use of data to support policy.

Dale Epstein
- Principal investigator for the State-level Home Visiting Integration with Early Childhood Data Systems (SHINE) initiative.
- Specializes in early childhood policy, data system building and analyses, and evaluations of early childhood initiatives.

Hayley Young
- Early Childhood Data Analyst in the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Secretary.
- Oversees the North Carolina Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS).
How Policymakers Can Support Early Childhood Data Governance

August 15, 2019
Presentation overview

I. Integrating Early Childhood Data
   • Why are states integrating early childhood data?

II. Status of State Early Childhood Data Systems
   • Findings from 2018 survey of states

III. Supporting Early Childhood Data Governance
   • Spotlight on North Carolina

IV. Action Steps for Consideration
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
Integrating Early Childhood Data
Why is 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 early childhood data
Goals of early childhood integrated data systems: State examples

• **Pennsylvania Enterprise to Link Information for Children Across Networks**: to combine the state’s early learning programs under a single management information system.

• **Georgia’s Cross Agency Child Data System**: to identify service gaps, create opportunities for analysis and research, and provide an integrated and aligned approach to demonstrate how the state is meeting the needs of its youngest learners.
Goals of early childhood integrated data systems: State examples

- **Utah Early Childhood Integrated Data System**: to strengthen data systems for planning, collaboration, and accountability, as well as facilitate data sharing and coordination among early childhood programs.

- **North Carolina Early Childhood Integrated Data System**: to provide a high-quality, comprehensive, integrated early childhood data system for North Carolina to inform policies and programs that produce better outcomes for children and families.
Status of State Early Childhood Data Systems
Summary of Survey Findings
2018 Early Childhood Data Systems Survey

Number of States Linking Child, Workforce, and Program Data

- ECE: 16 (12 Links, 8 Plans to Link, 22 Does Not Link/Plan)
- Health: 21 (21 Links, 0 Plans to Link, 0 Does Not Link/Plan)
- Social services: 22 (17 Links, 11 Plans to Link, 17 Does Not Link/Plan)
- K-12: 10 (18 Links, 17 Plans to Link, 11 Does Not Link/Plan)
- Program: 11 (17 Links, 18 Plans to Link, 17 Does Not Link/Plan)
- Workforce: 17 (18 Links, 15 Plans to Link, 17 Does Not Link/Plan)
States with a defined data governance body

Yes

No

Click on a state to view a profile of its detailed performance.
## Data access and use policies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy/Process</th>
<th>No. of States*</th>
<th>% of States with Governing Body</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Data ownership</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriate use of shared data</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consulting with data owners about other potential uses</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Determining the information needs for the maintenance of coordinated early childhood data (with an ECIDS)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Determining the information needs for the maintenance of state data (without an ECIDS)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of the above</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*States can select all options that apply.*
Data privacy and security policies

• States were more likely to report having documented policies and processes related to data breaches (50%) and privacy (50%) compared to information explaining privacy to parents (27%) or soliciting public input on privacy policies (5%).
Supporting Early Childhood Data Governance
Data governance
Key considerations of early childhood integrated data systems (ECIDS) data governance:

• Involvement of key stakeholders
  ▪ Who needs to be at the table?
• Structure (levels, sub-committees, etc.)
• Clearly defined purpose of governance
• Established process, roles and responsibilities
• Sustainability
North Carolina

Executive Committee
- Secretary of NCDHHS or Designee
- Superintendent of NCDPI or Designee
- Division Directors, NCDHHS
- Director of OEL, NCPDI
- Director, Head Start Collaboration Office
- Early Childhood Policy Advisor, Office of Governor
- Deputy Secretary for Technology, NCDHHS
- Chief Data Officers, NCDHHS and NCDIT
- Director of Analytics, NCDIT

Program Management Committee
- Program Managers
- Program IT/Data staff
- Systems Analysts/Data staff, NCDIT

Research Stakeholders
Role of Governance Council:

• Data access and use by agencies, the general public, and data requesters
• Data sharing across Key Participating Agencies
• Protection of data
• Governance decisions around policies and the system operation
• Decisions regarding report types, information in reports, and reports’ accessibility
• Management of the NC ECIDS application
Executive Committee responsible for:

- Setting compliance policies and standards
- Recommendations for current and future data use, analyses, and reporting
- Approving, signing, and revising (as needed) the Agency MOA
- Ensuring that decisions are aligned with the best interests of their organization

Program Management Committee responsible for:

- Selecting and approving data elements
- Recommendations around privacy and confidentiality of records
- Coordinating submission of data and approval of data requests
- Promoting responsible use of data to make informed data policy decisions
- Reviewing and recommending issues to be resolved by the Executive Committee
New Jersey
Vermont

Data Governance Structure

- **Policy and Priority Guidance**
  - Make Recommendations

**Decision-Making by Agency Secretaries**

**Agency Secretaries**

**Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Team**

**Data Governance Council**

**Ad Hoc Data Stewards Workgroups**

  - Technology
  - Data Standards
  - Research & Analytics
  - MOUs & Access Policies

**Advisory Committees**

- BBF State Advisory Council
- AOE SLDS Advisory Committee
- BBF Data & Evaluation Committee

*Can bring in non-state agency stakeholders on appropriate ad hoc workgroups to help develop proposed solutions and/or implementation. This graphic contains a sample list of the types of workgroups to engage, not a finite list.*

Advisory Council/Committees will be asked for input, but have no decision-making authority. They may request data analyses, but approval/denial rests with Governance Program leadership.
Minnesota’s ECLDS (ECIDS) Governance

- **Mini-Cabinet**
  - **State Agency Commissioners**
  - **Departments of Education, Health & Human Services**
  - Each state department appoints one member at leadership level. Each state department identifies two practice community associations who also appoint a leadership-level representative.

- **Governing Body**
  - **Managers, Directors, Assistant Commissioners**

- **Research & Data Committee**
  - Data stewards, policy and program researchers, data users and contributors
  - Members appointed by Governing Body. Membership is flexible (may be dependent upon current work) and fluid.

- **GB Approves/Denies**
- **R&D makes recommendations to GB**
1. Identify critical policy questions integrated data can help answer to inform future policy and program decisions.

2. Support an early childhood data governance structure that includes:
   - cross-agency representation from programs serving young children and their families
   - authority to develop inter- and cross-agency data sharing agreements to align data standards and processes to support integration.
   - oversight of data privacy policies and use of integrated early childhood data
   - decision-making power to identify priorities for data collection, uses of integrated data and reporting requirements to inform policies.
   - responsibility to secure funding to implement data integration goals
   - transparent and clear information for families on how their data will be used and protected

3. Use legislative authority to establish an early childhood governance structure that supports the integration and use of early childhood data across agencies to inform state policies.
About ECDC

ECDC's mission is to promote policies and practices that support the development and use of coordinated, longitudinal early care and education state data systems.

Learn More

Visit www.ecedata.org for more information

Follow us on twitter @ecedata
QUESTIONS
An archived version will be available shortly, please visit:

- www.ncsl.org/fellows8
- All NCSL ECE materials on our website
- Child Trends
- Early Childhood Data Collaborative

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