A New York State Early Childhood Integrated Data System

Currently, in New York State, 11 separate databases collect information on the children that attend early childhood programs, the programs that they attend, and the staff and administrators who provide the service. Unfortunately, there is currently no way to link the data collected by these systems resulting in an inability to answer basic program and policy questions. To address this issue, the NYS Early Childhood Advisory Council, though an interagency work group comprised of the representatives of each of the component data systems, has been working to develop a NYS Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS).

Our Goal

We believe early childhood integrated data will lead to:

Better insight	**Better answers**	**Better decisions**	**Better outcomes**
into how early childhood services are utilized across NY	to key early childhood policy and program questions	regarding use and Refinement of early childhood programs	for children and families of New York State

A New York ECIDS would:

- Integrate data for children birth to 5 who participate publicly funded early childhood education programs (i.e. Child care, Pre-K, Head Start, Early Intervention, and Preschool Special Education) to answer key program and policy questions;
- Provide unduplicated counts of children in participating programs and services;
- Provide counts of children who are receiving multiple early childhood services;
- Produce aggregate level reports for commonly asked program and policy questions;
- Provide data for approved research requests; and
- Connect with the NYS Education Department's P-20 Longitudinal Data System to examine the effects of early childhood programs over time.

A New York ECIDS would not:

- Include all children aged birth to 5 in New York (There is no data collected on children in child care who are not receiving subsidies; there is also no child specific data collected for children enrolled in Early Head Start and Head Start, although aggregate child data by program is available);
- Evaluate or track individual children;
- Release names, Social Security numbers, addresses, or pictures of children and parents; or
- Include any financial data for children or families.

Vision

Our vision is to create an interactive web portal that provides aggregate state reports that can be customized by geographic area, demographics, and time period. The system would link data collected by the 11 existing data systems on children, programs, and on staff and administrators.

- NYS Office of Children and Families Child Care Tracking and Attendance System
- NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Child Care Activity Tracking System
- New York State Education Department Basic Education Data System
- NYS Office of Children and Family Services Child Care Facility System
- NYC Agency for Children Services Automated Child Care Information System
- New York City Department of Education PreKids Data System
- Early Childhood Professional Development Institute Aspire Workforce Registry
- Early Childhood Professional Development Institute QUALITYstarsNY Database
- NYS Department of Health Early Intervention Information System
- NYS Department of Education P-20 Longitudinal Data System (Universal Prekindergarten and Preschool Special Education
- NYS Department of Education TEACH System (workforce)

Additional programs to be included:

- New York State Home Visiting Programs (Healthy Families NY and Nurse Family Partnership)
- Afterschool and expanded learning programs (data currently not collected)

Accomplishments to Date

- Developed a list of program and policy questions to be answered by an Early Childhood Integrated Data System to demonstrate value.
- Completed a comprehensive inventory of data elements currently collected.
- Developed a cross walk between the data collected and the data needed to accurately answer major program and policy questions.
- Developed an analyses of data elements collected and needed.
- Developed a full proposal for developing an Early Childhood Integrated Data System.

For More Information:

- Email: ecac@ccf.ny.gov
- Go to: http://bit.ly/NY_ECIDS