

2013 Early Childhood Data Systems Survey

Alabama^{1,2}

Number of States
 Responding "Yes"
 (n=51)³

Status of securely linking child-level data across Early Childhood Education (ECE) programs⁴		
"Linking child-level data across programs" refers to the ability to follow individual children across ECE programs. For example, if the two databases link child-level data, a program administrator could identify that a child attends both a State Pre-Kindergarten program and a Head Start program.		
State links across all programs	—	1
State links across some programs	—	25
State has the capacity to link, but is currently not doing so	—	4
State planning to link	Yes	17
State does not currently intend to link	—	4
Method(s) to link child-level data across ECE programs		
Unique Child ID	N/A	14
Matched on other variables, such as name, birthdate, gender	N/A	1
Both Unique Child ID and matching on other variables	N/A	11
ECE program databases being linked		
Early Intervention (IDEA, Part C)	N/A	17
Preschool Special Education (IDEA, Part B, 619)	N/A	22
State Pre-Kindergarten ⁵	N/A	23
State-Funded Head Start ⁵	N/A	7
Federal-Funded Head Start	N/A	6
Subsidized Child Care	N/A	12
Status of securely linking ECE child-level data to state K-12 data systems		
"Linking child-level data to state K-12 data systems" refers to the state's ability to follow individual children between early childhood education databases and the state's K-12 data system. For example, a program administrator could identify that a child, who is entering kindergarten, was receiving Subsidized Child Care for two years before kindergarten.		
State links all ECE programs to K-12	—	1
State links some ECE programs to K-12	—	29
State has the capacity to link to K-12, but is currently not doing so	—	6
State planning to link to K-12	Yes	9
State does not currently intend to link to K-12	—	4
Other	—	2
Method(s) used to link child-level data to K-12 data system		
State unique ID used across ECE programs	N/A	7
K-12 ID number assigned for children in some/all ECE programs	N/A	19
Linking is not necessary because the K-12 data system includes child-level data for some/all ECE programs	N/A	16
Child-level data is matched on other variables, such as name, birthdate, gender	N/A	11
Other	N/A	1
ECE program databases linked to K-12 data system		
Early Intervention (IDEA, Part C)	N/A	14
Preschool Special Education (IDEA, Part B, 619)	N/A	25
State Pre-Kindergarten ⁵	N/A	23
State-Funded Head Start ⁵	N/A	7
Federal-Funded Head Start	N/A	9
Subsidized Child Care	N/A	10

¹ '—' means a no response to the question

² 'N/A' means the response option was not applicable

³ Includes all states and the District of Columbia

⁴ ECE programs include Early Intervention (IDEA, Part C), Preschool Special Education (IDEA, Part B, 619), State Pre-Kindergarten, State-Funded and Federal-Funded Head Start and Subsidized Child Care.

⁵ Not all states offer State Prekindergarten and/or State-Funded Head Start. The total number of possible responses for questions referring to these programs are: State Prekindergarten (n=43) and State-Funded Head Start (n=15).

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Status of securely linking ECE child-level data to state health program databases

"Linking child-level data to state health program databases" refers to the state's ability to follow individual children between early childhood education databases and any of the state's health program databases for young children. For example, a program administrator could identify that a child is receiving Subsidized Child Care and is also enrolled in the state's Medicaid program.

State links all ECE programs to health	—	None
State links some ECE programs to health	—	12
State has the capacity to link to health, but is currently not doing so	—	6
State planning to link to health	Yes	22
State does not currently intend to link to health	—	7
Other	—	4

Status of securely linking ECE child-level data to state social services program databases

"Linking child-level data to state social services databases" refers to the state's ability to follow individual children between early childhood education databases and any of the state's social services databases for young children. For example, a program administrator could identify that a child is receiving Subsidized Child Care and is part of the state's foster care system.

State links all ECE programs to social services	—	None
State links some ECE programs to social services	—	20
State has the capacity to link to social services, but is currently not doing so	—	4
State planning to link to social services	—	18
State does not currently intend to link to social services	—	5
Other	Yes	4

Child-Level Screening and Assessment

"Screening" refers to using a tool to evaluate whether a child may be at risk for a developmental delay, while "assessment" refers to using a tool to measure a child's skills and abilities.

State captures screening and/or assessment data in a data system	Yes	36
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Kindergarten Entry Assessment

"Kindergarten entry assessment" refers to a tool used to evaluate a child's knowledge and skills in multiple domains to measure kindergarten readiness.

State captures kindergarten entry assessment data in a data system	Yes	29
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ECE Data Governance

"ECE data governance" refers to how the state governs its ECE data systems, including its structure, authority and functions. A data governance structure guides how data management functions are performed and how data are used.

State has an entity that plays an ECE data governance role	Yes	32
Authorities of ECE Governance Entity		
Approves and monitors all policies	—	15
Approves some policies	Yes	16
Makes recommendations	Yes	23
Other authority	—	3
Functions of ECE Governance Entity		
Strategic planning	Yes	28
Linking ECE databases	Yes	26
Sharing across state agencies	Yes	29
Common data definitions and standards	Yes	25
Data reporting and use	Yes	27
Resolving data conflicts between agencies	Yes	22
Coordinating resources for development of an ECE data system	Yes	25
Other function	—	4

ECE Data Security

All states adhere to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) which protect the security of individual level education and health data. The responsibility for governing data privacy and/or security functions resides in multiple agencies. In Alabama, the established ECE data system governance entity also performs this function.

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