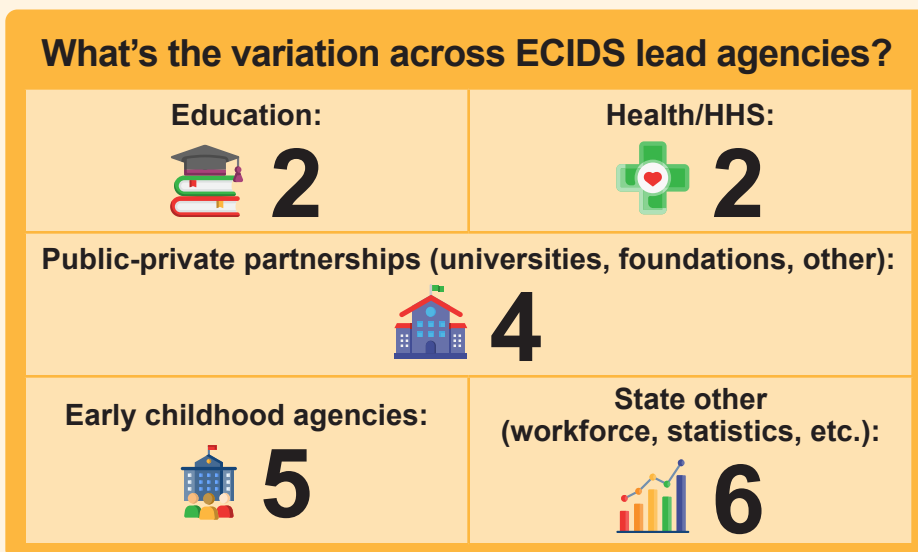
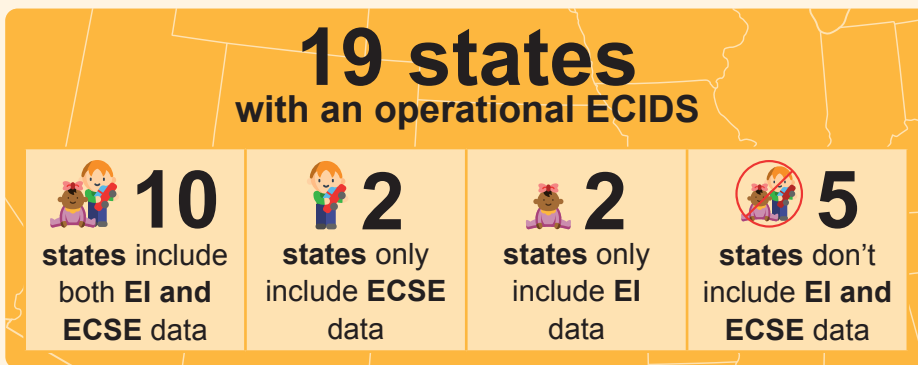


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State agencies are engaging in data integration efforts across early childhood programs, and IDEA early childhood data are often included in those efforts, although not uniformly. A DaSy Center landscape analysis (national survey data, state website and document reviews, and interviews with state personnel) confirmed that 19 states have an operational Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS), ten of which contain both Part C Early Intervention (EI) and Part B 619 Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) data of some kind. The findings suggest that states are actively linking and integrating data, but factors such as resource availability and state IDEA personnel that are siloed from ECIDS and other statewide data integration efforts make the integration of IDEA early childhood data more challenging.

Having an ECIDS allows states to provide integrated, cross-program data that inform decisions about early childhood policies and improving programs and services for children and families. For example, a state may want to answer the critical question ([DaSy Critical Questions About Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education](#), 1.C.1): To what extent are children with Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs) or Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) attending general early care and education programs? In this infographic we include by the number ECIDS highlights (with EI and ECSE data) and what we learned from state interviews (funding sources, success & advice, and challenges).

By the Numbers



What is an ECIDS?

An ECIDS collects, integrates, maintains, stores, and reports information from early childhood programs across multiple agencies within a state that serve children and families from birth to age 8. The broad purpose of an ECIDS is to provide integrated, cross-program data that inform decisions about early childhood policies, services, and education. An ECIDS may or may not be part of a state's broader statewide longitudinal data system (SLDS) ([ECIDS Toolkit](#)).

Data typically included:

- Public Primary Education (K-3)
- Head Start and Early Head Start
- State PreK
- Home Visiting
- Part C
- Part B 619
- Child Care

([ECIDS Graphic](#))

What We Learned from State Interviews



Past and current ECIDS funding sources

- Early Learning Challenge
- Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five
- Child Care Development Fund
- Statewide Longitudinal Data System Grant
- American Rescue Plan
- Foundations
- State Appropriations



Biggest Challenges to integrating IDEA early childhood data with ECIDS

- No dedicated funding to link or integrate data with an ECIDS
- Lack of state IDEA staff awareness of ECIDS and the benefits to EI and ECSE
- Minimal engagement of EI and ECSE staff in ECIDS conversations and/or governance processes
- Lack of state staff capacity to engage in ECIDS work
- IDEA staff turnover that can lead to programs being unaware of how a state data system may be accessing and publishing their data



Success & Advice to integrate IDEA early childhood data in an ECIDS

Successes/Strategies:

- Leverage federal funding to get the project off the ground.
- Identify state and foundation funds to support long-term ECIDS work.
- Involve strong advocates to make sure data on children with disabilities are included in the ECIDS.
- Ensure there are dedicated staff to support ongoing work.
- Build strong collaboration and partnerships with other state agencies and universities.
- Secure key leadership support (e.g., from governor, early childhood leaders) at the state and local levels.
- Leverage IT resources to support the SLDS and ECIDS over time.

Advice:

- Engage program leaders about the data: how they are using it, what they are doing with it, and how they are ensuring data quality and accuracy.
- Ensure program staff consults with local program leaders to identify needs and to provide input on available public reports.
- Build institutional continuity so one person does not hold the knowledge.
- Document related state processes so the work can continue and be shared with new or additional staff and/or teams.

Although this information discusses ECIDS primarily, the challenges for EI and ECSE integration apply to other kinds of statewide longitudinal data systems (educational, workforce, or health) as well.

Next Steps

DaSy is here to help EI and ECSE programs with their data integration efforts.

- Do you need better data insights to answer key program improvement questions?
- Do you need to develop reports or support improving existing reports for your state and local staff?

Access [DaSy resources](#) for EI and ECSE state staff — including critical questions, toolkits, learning modules, and the DaSy Framework — and information for families.



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About Us

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To learn more about the DaSy Center, visit the DaSy Center website at <http://www.dasycenter.org/>.