

Public Meeting

January 21, 2021



T E X A S
EARLY LEARNING
C O U N C I L

Welcome!

Thank you for joining this meeting. We will begin shortly.

All attendees are muted upon entry.

If you are having any connectivity issues, you can call into the meeting instead.

Number: 346-248-7799

Access Code: 91210553811#

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. November 2021 Minutes Approval
3. Public Comment
4. Strategic Plan: Early Childhood Data
5. Federal Stimulus Funding Update
6. Updates from TELC Members
7. Upcoming Early Childhood Events
8. Adjourn

Strategic Plan: Early Childhood Data

All TELC members



What progress has your organization / constituency made (or is planning to make) against [Texas Early Learning Strategic Plan](#)
Goal 6: *"Texas has strong coordination across its early childhood system and the underlying data system to support a high degree of collaboration"*?



2025 Targets:

- By 2025, Texas will have an early childhood integrated data system that meets the needs of policy makers, families, and providers.
- By 2025, Texas' early childhood data system will link data points related to kindergarten readiness and other transition indicators from and across the early learning system.

Strategic Plan: Early Childhood Data

All TELC members



Are there any further updates to the progress reported in the September 2021 Texas Early Learning Council Meeting?



Summary of September 2021 TELC Meeting Discussion:

- **Children's Learning Institute** – updates to Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System (TECPDS)
- **Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office** – initial discussions about using TEA Unique ID in child-level Head Start data
- **Texans Care for Children** – early stages of developing holistic Kindergarten readiness dashboard
- **Early Childhood Inter-Agency Work Group** – announced plans to work with TELC to develop an Early Childhood Integrated Data System roadmap for Texas.

See Strategic Plan section of [September meeting minutes](#) for further details.



The Texas School Readiness Dashboard

January 21, 2022
Texas Early Learning Council

**Strengthening early childhood environments and
outcomes for every family in every corner of Texas.**

Today's Agenda

- Purpose
- Plan
- Indicators
- Next Steps

The image shows the Texas State Capitol building in Austin, Texas, under a clear blue sky. The building's iconic dome and classical architecture are prominent. In the foreground, there are green trees and a small monument. The text "The Purpose" is centered over the building in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

The Purpose

Underlying Principles

- Children with positive, healthy early childhood experiences are more likely to be ready for success in school and beyond.
- Many different factors influence early childhood experiences.
- To improve school readiness in Texas, a multi-domain, cross-system set of indicators can help policy and community leaders measure progress and drive policy.

The Need

- Unfortunately, too few Texas children arrive at school with the strong early childhood foundation they need to succeed.
- Lacking a framework to help them improve early childhood experiences in a more comprehensive fashion, policy and community leaders tend to tackle school readiness in a siloed fashion.

The image shows the Texas State Capitol building in Austin, Texas, under a clear blue sky. The building's iconic dome and classical architecture are prominent. In the foreground, there are green trees and a few people walking. The text "The Plan" is centered over the building in a white, sans-serif font.

The Plan

Developing the Dashboard

- In 2020, Texans Care for Children convened over 40 Texans via a Leadership Council and Advisory Committee to identify a set of key indicators for a Texas School Readiness Dashboard.
- The selected indicators provide insight into whether kids from birth to age five have the positive experiences they need to be ready to succeed in school.
- We appreciate the support of The Meadows Foundation and other philanthropic partners.

The Dashboard

The online, interactive Dashboard is intended to:

- serve as an easily accessible data resource
- help state leaders and communities align priorities and measure progress
- inform policy and funding decisions
- focus greater attention on the needs of children and families in the early childhood years

The Dashboard

The Dashboard is NOT intended as:

- an exhaustive list of what's important to the well-being of kids and families
- a tool to measure child development or progress at an individual level
- a measure of the efficacy of any particular intervention

The image shows the Texas State Capitol building in Austin, Texas, under a clear blue sky. The building is a large, ornate structure with a prominent central dome topped by a statue. The facade features classical architectural elements like columns and arches. In the foreground, there are green trees and a small monument. The text "The Indicators" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

The Indicators

Dashboard Indicators

- Food insecurity
- Poverty rate
- Quality of adult-child interactions
- Social-emotional development
- Access to health coverage
- Access to health services
- Access to high-quality early education and care
 - birth through three
 - three through kindergarten

A photograph of the Colorado State Capitol building, a large, ornate, light-colored stone structure with a prominent central dome topped by a statue. The building is set against a clear blue sky. In the foreground, there are green trees and a small, white, classical-style monument. The text "Next Steps" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font in the center of the image.

Next Steps

Next Steps

- Engaging state leaders, including agencies, TELC, and the House Early Childhood Caucus to educate and align priorities
- Coordinating with community partners to hone the user interface
- Building and operationalizing the Dashboard
- Disseminating research on what policy levers drive these indicators

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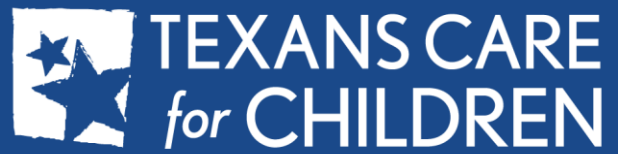
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Early Childhood Integrated Data Systems

Reagan Miller, Texas Workforce Commission

What is an ECIDS?

- Early childhood services span multiple state agencies and programs, and many states are pursuing Early Childhood Integrated Data Systems (ECIDS) to merge data across agencies.
- An ECIDS can help states integrate, layer, or combine data across programs that serve young children to support **cross-program collaboration** and **data-driven decision-making**.

Texas Interagency Collaboration:

The interagency early childhood team, comprised of staff from five agencies, is interested in examining the potential policy questions an ECIDS could assist in addressing. The team includes:

- Texas Workforce Commission
- Texas Education Agency
- Texas Health and Human Services Commission (Early Childhood Intervention and Child Care Regulation)
- Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (Prevention and Early Intervention/PEI), and
- Texas Department of State Health Services (Maternal and Child Health).

Early Childhood Integrated Data Systems

Reagan Miller, Texas Workforce Commission

A Texas ECIDS Roadmap:

- *What?*

The ECIDS Roadmap will include a summary of Texas-specific background information, stakeholder-identified policy questions and data use cases, and a sequence of proposed activities for the near and mid-term.

- *Why?*

An ECIDS roadmap will provide a framework outlining goals and objectives, and the data elements needed, for the Texas early childhood state agencies to consider regarding the pursuit of an ECIDS interagency project.

- *How?*

Over the next year, the interagency early childhood team will work across programs and with stakeholders to develop an ECIDS roadmap.

The federal technical assistance center for PDG B-5 will provide technical assistance and help facilitate stakeholder engagement and roadmap development.

Early Childhood Integrated Data Systems

Reagan Miller, Texas Workforce Commission

Today's objectives:

- ☐ Review high-level assumptions and plan for stakeholder engagement
- ☐ Decide whether to stand up an Early Childhood Data Work Group of the Texas Early Learning Council
- ☐ Review and provide input to Texas ECIDS Purpose and Goals

ECIDS Roadmap Stakeholder Engagement

Reagan Miller, Texas Workforce Commission

- Stakeholder engagement is the process by which those leading the ECIDS work involve the groups that contribute to and are served by the system.
- Effective stakeholder engagement is essential to a successful ECIDS because it:
 - Promotes broader awareness of the potential for developing an ECIDS
 - Ensures that the ECIDS Roadmap is developed with input from, and considers the needs of those it intends to serve

Relevant Resource: [Early Childhood Integrated Data Systems Toolkit](#); Guide: Stakeholder Engagement. Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems Grant Program, July 2021.

ECIDS Roadmap Stakeholder Engagement

Reagan Miller, Texas Workforce Commission

High-Level Assumptions

1. Early Childhood Inter-Agency Work Group members will share ECIDS overview with agency leaders (includes HHSC, DFPS, DSHS, TEA, and TWC).
2. Stakeholder engagement is crucial to the success of the ECIDS roadmap and Texas' ECIDS planning; and stakeholders who would like to provide input to the roadmap will be allowed a chance to do so
3. The Texas Early Learning Council (TELC) will be the main conduit for stakeholder engagement.
4. The Early Childhood Inter-Agency Work Group members along with the TELC will identify who, how, and when to engage stakeholders.
5. The Roadmap will be presented to the state agency leadership for review and consideration regarding the pursuit of an ECIDS as an interagency project (including consideration of cost).

High-Level Plan

- Stakeholder groups include policymakers, state agencies, local programs, advocates, researchers, and parents.
- Engage stakeholders through listening sessions and surveys throughout 2022.

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Early Childhood Data Work Group

Reagan Miller, Texas Workforce Commission

- Work Group Chair would be appointed by the TELC Chair
- Work Group members would:
 - Include any TELC members who opt to take part
 - Meet on a cadence to be determined by the members, in between quarterly TELC meetings, open to the public
 - Guide ECIDS Roadmap stakeholder engagement efforts, including leading listening sessions and survey design
 - Provide updates to the full TELC during quarterly meetings

Early Childhood Integrated Data Systems

Sarah Abrahams, Department of Family and Protective Services

Today's objectives:

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ECIDS Purpose Statement

Sarah Abrahams, Department of Family and Protective Services

- An effective ECIDS purpose statement succinctly describes the reasons for which the ECIDS has been built and the tangible value of the system.
- An ECIDS purpose statement should address the following questions:
 - What value will the ECIDS bring to the state?
 - What will the ECIDS provide that the state cannot currently do?
 - How will the ECIDS support the use of data to inform decisions?
 - Which decisions or essential questions will the ECIDS support?
 - Whom will the ECIDS serve?

For sample ECIDS purpose statements from other states, see [appendix](#) (slides will be posted publicly following the meeting).

Texas ECIDS Purpose and Goals

Sarah Abrahams, Department of Family and Protective Services

Purpose: Through collaboration across and within agencies and programs, a Texas ECIDS would provide an integrated and aligned approach to enable Texas to make informed decisions about programs and policies that promote positive outcomes for young children and their families.

Goals: We believe integrated early childhood data will lead to:

- Better insight into how early childhood services are utilized across Texas
- Improved decisions regarding use and refinement of early childhood programs
- Clearer information for stakeholders and policy makers
- Better outcomes for the children and families of Texas

Use data to:

- Identify bright spots
- Identify gaps in services
- Identify underserved populations
- Identify opportunities to align programs and services
- Identify where early childhood services correlate with child progress in key metrics
- Inform coordination across our programs
- Tell Texas' story of collective investment in early childhood

Early Childhood Integrated Data Systems

Reagan Miller, Texas Workforce Commission

Today's objectives:

- ✓ Review high-level assumptions and plan for stakeholder engagement
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Updates from TELC Members

Minimum Standards Review

Rachelle Daniel, Child Care Regulation

Milestones and Target Dates of Interest

- January 5th, 2022: Stakeholder workgroup convened to review and discuss drafts of proposed rule changes
- March 2022: Drafts posted to website for informal public comment
- August 2022: Proposed rules presented at HHSC Executive Council meeting
- September 2022: Proposed rules submitted to *Texas Register* for formal public comment
- January 2023: Rules submitted to *Texas Register* for adoption
- February 2023: Rules become effective



Upcoming Early Childhood Events

Events

Children at Risk: [State of Black Children in Texas Summit](#),
February 24, 2022

Department of State Health Services: [Texas Collaborative for Healthy Mothers and Babies \(TCHMB\) Virtual Summit](#), February 17-18, 2022

Department of State Health Services and Department of Family and Protective Services: [Pediatric Brain Health Summit](#),
March 7-8, 2022

Adjourn



Next meeting:
April 1, 2022
11am – 1pm CT



Appendix

ECIDS Purpose Statement Examples

Nebraska

Purpose: Through collaboration across and within agencies and programs, ECIDS Nebraska will enable Nebraska to make informed decisions about programs and policies that promote positive outcomes for all children, prenatally through eight years old.

Vision:

ECIDS Nebraska:

- Provides information to families about the availability of early childhood programs and services throughout the state
- Helps identify short- and long-term outcomes for continuous program/service improvement
- Evaluates the alignment between early education services and child progress

ECIDS Nebraska is not:

- A quick fix for all risk factors facing young children
- An infringement on privacy or confidentiality
- A replacement for individual program data systems

Source: [Early Childhood Integrated Data System \(ECIDS\) - Nebraska Department of Education.](#)

ECIDS Purpose Statement Examples

North Carolina

Purpose: The North Carolina Early Childhood Integrated Data System (NC ECIDS) is the single source for integrated early childhood data for selected education, health and social services programs to help answer key policy and program questions.

Mission: Create, maintain and enhance a high quality, comprehensive, integrated early childhood data system for North Carolina to inform policies and practices that produce better outcomes for children and families.

Goal:

We believe integrated early childhood integrated data will lead to:

- **Better insight** into how early childhood services are utilized across North Carolina.
- **Better answers** to key early childhood policy and program questions.
- **Better decisions** regarding use and refinement of early childhood programs.
- **Better outcomes** for the children and families of North Carolina.

Source: [North Carolina Early Childhood Integrated Data System - NCDHHS](#).

ECIDS Purpose Statement Examples

Georgia

Purpose: 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.

Mission: Create a high quality, comprehensive, integrated early childhood data system for Georgia to inform policies and practices that produce better outcomes for children and families.