

Data Systems Vision: Future Directions?

What Do We Want to Accomplish?	What's Our Strategy for Accomplishing It?	What Have We Done So Far?	What Could We Accomplish in the Coming Years?	Resources Needed
<p>We want rich, interconnected data that allows us to answer key questions about what's happening in early childhood.</p>	<p>Linking multiple data systems across agencies in a manner that allows us to have a more holistic picture of what children and families are experiencing, with strong practices for ensuring data reliability and accuracy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working through the Longitudinal Data System, there are intergovernmental agreements in place that allow for data sharing among some key agencies (particularly ISBE and DHS). The Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map is a tool for analyzing data about access and quality compared to need. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We could add new agencies and programs to the system. We could strengthen the capacity of the system to deliver data in a timely manner. We could harmonize reporting requirements across multiple programs to develop better cross-system reporting with consistency across agencies and funding streams. We can continue to identify areas where the data we collect is not sufficient to answer key questions that we have, or where data we are currently collected is not useful. We can strengthen existing systems to ensure the reliability and cleanliness of data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
<p>We want clear priorities for our analytic and research work.</p>	<p>Developing a research agenda that prioritizes key questions we want our systems to answer.</p>	<p>The Illinois Early Learning Council has developed an initial research agenda that includes top priorities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the Executive Committee's focus on equity is reflected in all of our work. Update and refresh the research agenda. Communicate more broadly our research priorities. This could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively publicizing the research agenda with multiple audiences, including researchers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Creating a wiki for ongoing projects and to disseminate research findings. 	
<p>We want to build our capacity to use data in program administration.</p>	<p>Strengthen the capacity of state officials, their grantees, and communities.</p>	<p>The DRE has approved recommendations to develop a toolkit for communities, and is seeking to partner with the Community Systems Development subcommittee to build out the resources communities need.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide training and support to state administrators on data usage. ● Build additional capacity for data use at the community level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●
<p>We want to build our capacity to use data in advocacy and research.</p>	<p>Strengthen the capacity of advocates and researchers to use data.</p>	<p>The philanthropic community has supported significant advocacy and research capacity in early childhood.</p> <p>The ILDS Governing Board has established a standardized data sharing agreement form, and is documenting data dictionaries and researcher approval procedures across agencies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue to support advocates on data usage. ● Develop capacity to analyze the data and provide actionable, timely visualizations, reports, infographics – tailored to specific audiences, and not necessarily just for advocacy audiences. ● Create additional research capacity that can address key questions in an actionable manner. ● Support and streamline processes for researchers to access state data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●

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<p>We want to build our capacity to use data in the educational process, including connecting schools and community providers serving the same children.</p>	<p>Develop capacity to support best practices in data at the local level, including templates and processes to improve community-level access to state data, and model data sharing agreements for local action.</p>	<p>Race to the Top supported the creation of webinars and technical assistance on data practices and toolkits highlighting lessons learned from the Innovation Zones.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create templates for communities to use to implement these practices legally. • Create and provide trainings to schools and community providers on how to implement these practices; ensure adequate capacity exists to provide those trainings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •