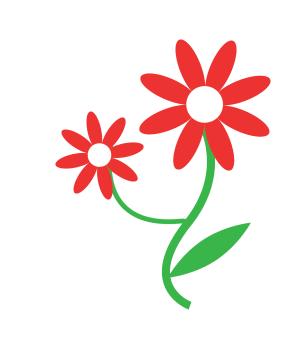# Building Effective Early Childhood Data Systems
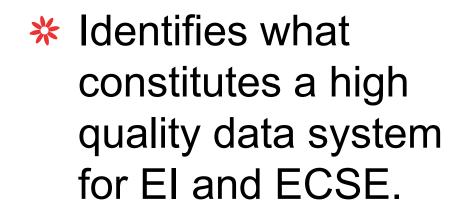
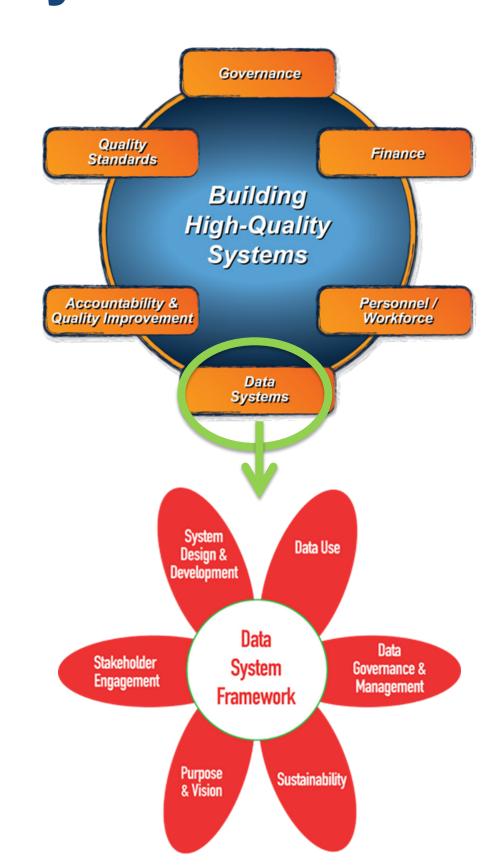## Donna Spiker & Kathleen Hebbeler, SRI International
2017 OSEP Leadership Conference | Arlington, Virginia | July 2017

What is the DaSy framework?

* Component of the ECTA System Framework for Early Intervention (EI) and Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)

* Identifies what constitutes a high quality data system for EI and ECSE.

What is the purpose of the DaSy framework?

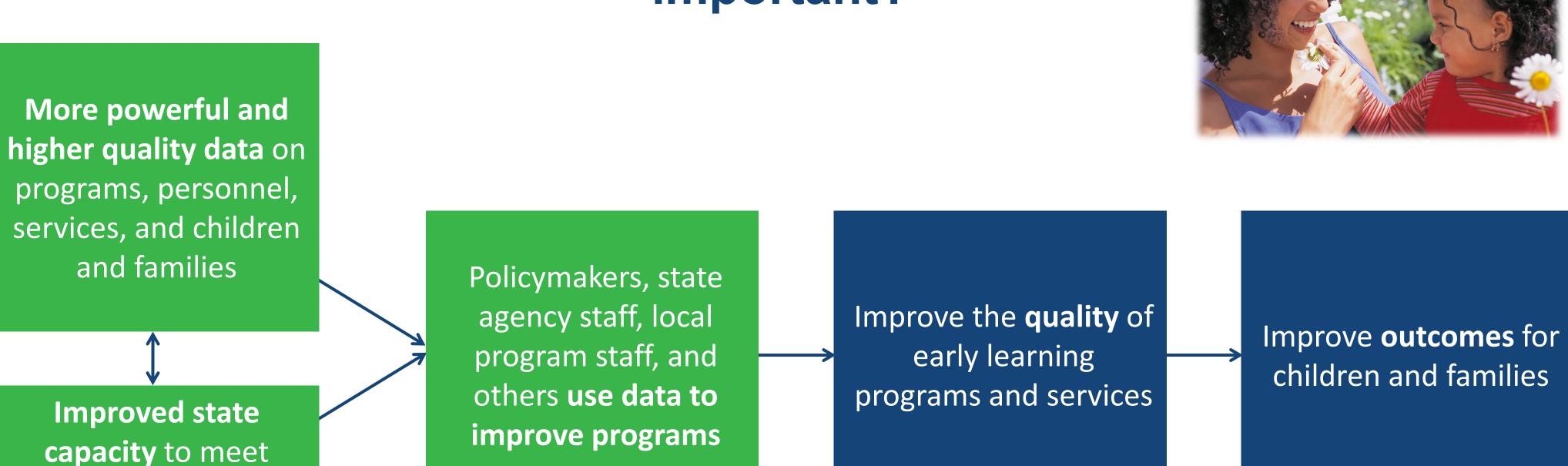The DaSy framework is intended to enhance the capacity of EI and ECSE state staff to

* **understand** the characteristics of a good state data system so they can

* **lead or actively participate** in state data system development efforts so they can

* **use** their state data systems to comply with IDEA federal reporting requirements and answer important program and policy questions, which will

* **enable** states to build better systems of services and programs that will improve outcomes for children with disabilities and their families.

Development of the DaSy framework

Developed by the DaSy Center with extensive and essential input from state agency staff in seven partner states: Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania.
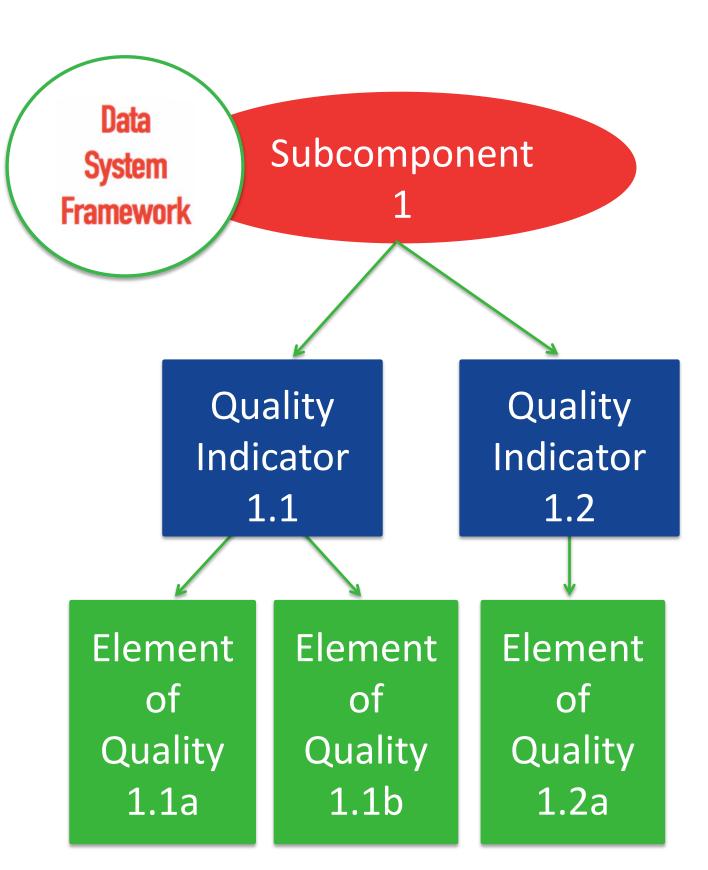
Why are state data systems important?

More powerful and higher quality data on programs, personnel, services, and children and families

Improved state capacity to meet federal reporting requirements and ask and answer policy and programmatic questions

Policymakers, state agency staff, local program staff, and others **use data to improve programs**

Improve the **quality** of early learning programs and services

Improve **outcomes** for children and families

A high-quality system provides data for multiple purposes:

* **Accountability** – Federal and state reporting
* **Program improvement** – Identifying strengths and weaknesses and improving results
* **Program operations** – Day-to-day management and operation of program activities

How is the DaSy framework structured?

Each of the framework's six subcomponents contains one or more quality indicators and multiple elements of quality. The quality indicators describe **what** quality is in a data system, and the elements describe **how** that quality is achieved.

Data System Framework — Subcomponent 1

Quality Indicator 1.1 — Quality Indicator 1.2

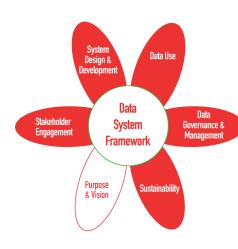Element of Quality 1.1a — Element of Quality 1.1b — Element of Quality 1.2a

Self-Assessment Tool

DaSy and ECTA created an Excel-based tool built around both the ECTA System Framework and the DaSy Data System framework as a mechanism for state programs to evaluate their systems and set priorities for improvement.
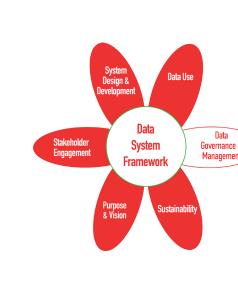
* Designed to be used with stakeholders, and includes a separate sheet for each framework component.

* Produces a color-coded summary profile for stakeholders to show strengths and weaknesses and to identify priorities for system improvement.

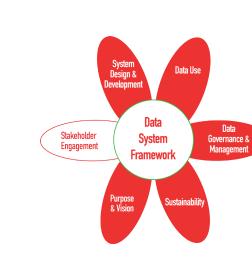## What are the DaSy framework subcomponents?

1: Purpose and Vision (PV)
Defines the mission and goals of the data system(s) serving Part C and Section 619.
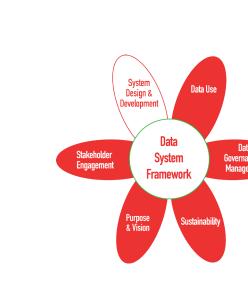
2: Data Governance and Management (DG)
Data Governance includes the overall management of the availability, usability, integrity, quality, and security of data. It is both an organizational process and a structure.
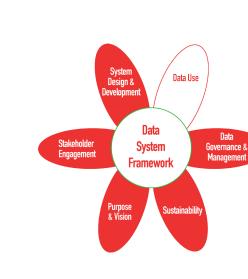
3: Stakeholder Engagement (SE)
The use of a collaborative process to gather a wide range of input from stakeholders at every level of an organization or system.
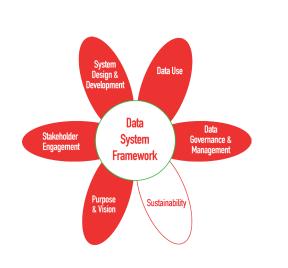
4: System Design and Development (SD)
The functional and technical requirements for a data system, and the development and implementation of a data system is then based on those requirements.

5: Data Use (DU)
The ongoing use of quality Part C and Part B 619 data for program accountability, program improvement, and program operations at state and local levels.

6: Sustainability (SU)
State's capacity to support the Part C and Part B 619 data system over time to meet the program's evolving needs.

IDEAs that Work
Office of Special Education Programs
U.S. Department of Education

Stay connected with DaSy: http://dasycenter.org
Stay connected with ECTA: http://ECTAcenter.org