

# DaSy Center

## The Center for IDEA Early Childhood Data Systems



### Mission

The Center for IDEA Early Childhood Data Systems (DaSy Center), funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), will provide technical assistance (TA) to states to support Part C and Part B preschool state programs in the development or enhancement of coordinated early childhood longitudinal data systems. The DaSy Center will work with other related projects to leverage what is known and generate new ideas and products to assist states to create and expand early childhood cross-agency and longitudinal data systems. These data systems will improve state capacity to collect, analyze, and report high-quality data that are required under IDEA. The data systems also will provide information to examine how these public investments result in better outcomes for children and families.

### Intended Outcomes

- Increase the number of states that have an early childhood longitudinal data system that meets recommended data system capabilities and elements.
- Increase the number of states with data system interoperability plans that allow for the linking of statewide early childhood longitudinal data systems to other statewide longitudinal data systems and early learning data systems, and that comply with all applicable privacy laws.
- Increase the number of states that use coordinated early childhood longitudinal data systems to improve their capacity to collect, analyze, and report high-quality data required under IDEA.

### Goals

- Generate new knowledge and useful products for states to use in the development and enhancement of statewide coordinated early childhood longitudinal data systems.
- Design and implement a continuum of TA strategies in working with states that are evidence-based, relevant, useful, and cost-effective.
- Provide national leadership and coordination around early childhood data systems to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of national and state resources.

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## Key Activities

The DaSy Center will conduct activities in three areas:

- **Knowledge Development.** In the first year, Center staff will work with Part C and Part B preschool state agencies to identify the current status of efforts to develop an early childhood longitudinal data system. Center staff also will work with a small set of partner states to develop a framework that identifies critical components and processes for data system development and will develop resources to support the use of the framework in all states.
- **TA and Dissemination.** Center staff will provide a continuum of general, intensive, and targeted TA and dissemination activities. The Center will solicit applications and identify 10 states that will receive intensive TA in years 2 through 5. Using the framework as a guide, the Center will work with stakeholders in these states to develop and implement a TA work plan based on state priorities. The Center will use what is learned through intensive TA to develop guidance documents for all states to promote critical data system capabilities/elements. Targeted and general TA activities will include convening an annual national meeting; conducting topical meetings or Think Tanks (to work through specific issues and resulting in a white paper or other guidance document or online modules); forming and supporting a variety of learning communities; holding national teleconferences and webinar series; and developing online, print, and video training materials. Dissemination will include sharing information through presentations at national meetings, e-mail lists, and the Center's website.
- **Leadership and Coordination.** Throughout the project, the Center will seek guidance from a diverse group of stakeholders to ensure that the work of the Center is addressing critical needs in the field. Center staff will communicate and collaborate with other OSEP-funded and other TA projects to coordinate, leverage, and maximize the TA resources available to states, including working with the National Dissemination Center for Individuals with Disabilities (NICHCY) on dissemination strategies and the Technical Assistance Coordination Center (TACC) on new products. The Center will contribute finalized products and services to the Technical Assistance & Dissemination Network database.

In addition, the Center's commitment to ongoing learning to ensure high-quality products and activities will be supported through the collection of formative (internal) and summative (external) evaluation data. Evaluation data will be used to examine the successes of the Center and to guide decisionmaking, improvement of TA activities, and accountability.

## About Us

The DaSy Center is a 5-year collaborative effort of five institutions: SRI International, the Frank Porter Graham (FPG) Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Applied Engineering Management (AEM), Westat, and the Center for Technology in Education (CTE) at Johns Hopkins University. In addition, the Center has a strong cadre of expert consultants who can be called upon to support Center activities. These experts bring deep knowledge and extensive experience about Part C and Part B preschool programs, policies and regulations, personnel, and state early childhood service and data systems.