

### **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' participation in the development or enhancement of integrated early childhood data systems. The DaSy Center will collaborate with other projects to leverage what is known and generate new ideas and products to help state agencies create and expand early childhood cross-agency and longitudinal data systems that include the Part C and Part B preschool data needed to collect, analyze, and report high-quality data required under IDEA.

### **Intended Outcomes**

- Increase the number of states that have an early childhood data system with data from Part C and Part B preschool state programs that meets recommended data system capabilities and elements.
- Increase the number of states with data system interoperability plans that allow for the linking of Part C and Part B preschool statewide early childhood data systems to other statewide longitudinal and early learning data systems, and that comply with all applicable privacy laws.
- Increase the number of states that use integrated early childhood and 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 Part C and Part B preschool state agencies to use in the development and enhancement of state integrated early childhood data systems with linkages to the Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS).
- Design and implement a continuum of TA services for state Part C and Part B preschool staff and other staff, employing strategies that are evidence-based, useful, and cost-effective.
- Provide national leadership and coordination around Part C and Part B preschool data systems and their inclusion in integrated early childhood and longitudinal state efforts to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of national and state resources.

### **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 and enhance the data systems that contain their Part C and Part B preschool data and develop and enhance linkages between Part C and Part B preschool data and data from other early childhood programs. 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 that are needed to report high-quality data required under IDEA, and develop resources to support the use of the framework by Part C and Part B preschool state agencies in all states.

#### **TA and Dissemination**

Center staff will provide a continuum of general, intensive, and targeted TA and dissemination activities for Part C and Part B preschool state agency staff. 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 priorities identified by the Part C and Part B preschool programs. The Center will use what is learned through intensive TA to develop guidance documents for all states to promote critical data system capabilities/elements needed to collect, analyze, and report high-quality data that are required under IDEA. Targeted and general TA activities will include convening national meetings; conducting topical meetings or Think Tanks (to work through specific issues, resulting in guidance documents or online modules); forming and supporting a variety of communities of practice; 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 Center's work is addressing critical needs of those in early intervention and preschool special education as well as the general early childhood 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 the National Dissemination Center for Individuals with Disabilities (NICHCY) on dissemination strategies and the Technical Assistance Coordination Center (TACC) on new products.

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 guide decision making, improve TA activities, and provide 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.

To learn more about the DaSy Center, visit our website at <http://www.dasycenter.org/> or contact us by telephone at 650-859-3881 or send an email to [dasycenter@sri.com](mailto:dasycenter@sri.com).

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## DaSy Center partners and contacts

### SRI International

Kathleen Hebbeler  
[kathleen.hebbeler@sri.com](mailto:kathleen.hebbeler@sri.com)  
Donna Spiker  
[donna.spiker@sri.com](mailto:donna.spiker@sri.com)

### Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute (FPG)

Lynne Kahn  
[lynne.kahn@unc.edu](mailto:lynne.kahn@unc.edu)  
Martha Diefendorf  
[martha.diefendorf@unc.edu](mailto:martha.diefendorf@unc.edu)

### Westat

Joy Markowitz  
[joymarkowitz@westat.com](mailto:joymarkowitz@westat.com)

### Applied Engineering Management (AEM)

Missy Cochenour  
[missy.cochenour@aemcorp.com](mailto:missy.cochenour@aemcorp.com)  
Denise Mauzy  
[denise.mauzy@aemcorp.com](mailto:denise.mauzy@aemcorp.com)

### Center for Technology in Education (CTE)

Amy Nicholas  
[anicholas@jhu.edu](mailto:anicholas@jhu.edu)

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