What is an integrated data system

An Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS, pronounced e-sids) is a system that collects, stores, maintains and reports aggregate early childhood information from multiple sources.

What is the purpose of ECIDS

Missouri has numerous programs and services supporting children birth to age five. ECIDS uses some of the information from these early childhood programs such as child and family demographics, program eligibility criteria and participation, and school readiness indicators.

ECIDS provides the ability to have an unduplicated count of children served in public early childhood programs.

When information from multiple programs is integrated, it is easier to understand. ECIDS can provide the public with aggregate information or a “snapshot” of the safety, health and education of children in a particular area of the state.

Which programs are part of ECIDS

In Missouri, there are 14 publicly funded early childhood programs participating in ECIDS, including:

Children’s Trust Fund
- Home Visiting

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Early Childhood Special Education
- First Steps
- Missouri Preschool Program
- Parents as Teachers
- Title I Preschool

Department of Health and Senior Services
- Immunizations
- Home Visiting - Healthy Families America (HFA)
- Home Visiting - MO Building Blocks (MBB)
- Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV)
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

Department of Social Services
- Child Care Subsidy
- Early Head Start
- Home Visiting

Who uses ECIDS

Program users can access information on how specific programs work together and the impact those programs, or a combination of programs, have on school readiness.

This information is necessary to help identify gaps or overlaps in services, which is information used by policymakers, agency executive leadership, early childhood program administrators, and researchers to make decisions about the early childhood system.

This information can also assist early childhood professionals in making decisions about the needed services for children and families throughout Missouri.

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The privacy of children and families is important to the state of Missouri and will be protected through the use of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) required between all participating agencies. As part of the MOA, the type of information available to a user is dependent upon the security allowed by the originating program and access will be limited to only the information necessary to complete critical functions for referral and enrollment in programs. The three levels of information are:

**Personally Identifiable Information (PII)**
- This information can identify the child or family. This information has the most restrictive access.

**De-Identified Information**
- This information removes some of the PII from records. This information has moderate restrictions for limited users (e.g., researchers for the state).

**Aggregate Information**
- This information removes all PII from records. This information is available to the public.

### How does ECIDS relate to the current system
DESE operates the state longitudinal data system (SLDS) for public education information for preschool through grade 12. Although ECIDS will be a separate system housing information from the 14 early childhood programs participating in the system, ECIDS will have the capability to connect to the SLDS. Connecting ECIDS and SLDS is an important feature in order to conduct longitudinal studies about the impact that early childhood services have on a child’s success in school and in life.

### How long will it take to build ECIDS
Construction of ECIDS will begin in 2021. It will take approximately 9 to 12 months to finish the critical foundation for the system (see Figure 1).

Once installation is complete, ECIDS will be able to produce an unduplicated count of children served by programs participating in the system. ECIDS will also assist program and state leaders with developing data-driven policies and conducting research that will enhance the sustainability of Missouri’s early childhood system.