RTT–ELC: Building a Strong Foundation for New Mexico

Through the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) grant, New Mexico is creating an environment that allows young children to build a strong foundation for learning by:

**Raising Quality:** Ensuring a highly qualified and skilled workforce to best support children’s optimal development; and implementing FOCUS, a rating system that allows parents to identify high quality programs.

**Promoting Accountability:** Developing a system that integrates data from across programs serving young children to measure child outcomes over time and to enable planning for early learning investments.

**Supporting Schools in Meeting Each Child’s Needs:** Through the Kindergarten Observation Tool (KOT), assessing school readiness to understand individual child needs at the beginning of school and provide early interventions for positive learning outcomes.

**Investing in Communities:** Identifying where children are at the greatest risk and prioritizing services to meet needs in designated areas.

**Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS)**

- **Data Planning**
  - **Single Identifier**
    - Create a single identification for each child for the ability to measure outcomes across programs.

- **System Design**
  - **Interface**
    - Develop processes and data specifications to ensure consistent protocols across programs and services.

- **Informed Decisions**
  - **Accountability**
    - Measure child outcomes over time, plan for early learning investment and ultimately achieve positive outcomes for all children.
INTEGRATED DATA IMPACT

The Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) enables the ability to make informed decisions about programs and policies that promote positive outcomes for all New Mexico children. Following are some of the data we will be able to provide.

Reports across programs
- The total number of children served in early learning programs including: Home visiting; Early Intervention (FIT Program); child care, PreK, Head Start, and Preschool special education.
- Number of children participating in early learning programs in a geographic area, by county, school district, etc., including maps.
- Number of children who transition from one program to another and/or are enrolled in multiple programs.

Outcomes for children over time
- Do children that receive early intervention or Preschool Special Education need less special education in later years?
- How well do children who received quality early learning experiences perform at grade 3 or beyond?

Workforce and program quality
- The qualifications and training of early learning staff across programs.
- The number and locations of early learning programs by the FOCUS Tiered Quality Rating Improvement System (TQRIS).

Capability to search for quality programs
- Families will be able to search for quality early learning programs in their community based on their child’s age and needs.
- Community members and policymakers will be able to view early learning programs outcomes by location and make informed decisions about programs, policies and investments.

For more information, visit www.earlylearningnm.org or email Kathy.Ytuarte2@state.nm.us