



NCSL MEMO

NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES

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To: Honorable K. Robert Krupika

From: Sera Treston-Pastore, NCSL

Date: November 2014

Subject: Research on state governance of early childhood education

Overview:

In recent years, states have examined and revised components of state ECE governance by legislative and or administrative means. States that have implemented governance changes by consolidating, merging or creating new entities include Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia and Washington. However, the extent to which states are able to consolidate *all* or *most* programs and services under a single entity varies widely.

Build Initiative released a report in May 2013 entitle A Framework for Choosing a State-Level Early Childhood Governance System available -

<http://www.buildinitiative.org/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Early%20Childhood%20Governance%20for%20Web.pdf>

- Provides an overview of three state governance structures – coordinated governance, consolidated governance, creation of a new agency.
- Reviews current state examples and practices for each of the three models.
- Provides an assessment of the challenges and advantages of each governance model.
- Makes recommendations for state leaders to help determine which structure might work for their state.

State Governance Models and Legislative Actions:

<i>GEORGIA Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning</i>	
Governance Model	Consolidation/Stand-alone new agency or department.
Year Established and Mechanism	2004 (SB 456) http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/20032004/40938.pdf
Authority	Fiscal, policy setting, rule-making
Description of Governance Change	The department was formed by merging the Office of School Readiness with units from the Department of Human Resources, the Department of Education, and the Georgia Child Care Council.
Programs Involved in Integration	Child care subsidy, licensing, quality Head Start State Collaboration State pre-K Other: CACFP, Even Start, child care resource and referrals

Programs not Involved	Child care subsidy (Department of Human Resources) Early Intervention-Part C (Department of Human Resources) Home Visiting (Governor's Office of Children and Families)
Additional Resources	http://www.decal.ga.gov/
MARYLAND Division of Early Childhood Development	
Governance Model	State-level Office within an existing state department (Maryland State Department of Education).
Year Established and Mechanism	2005 (HB 932) http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2005rs/bills/hb/hb0932e.pdf
Authority	Fiscal, policy setting, rule-making
Description of Governance Change	Combine functions previously assigned to the former Early Learning Branch and Department of Human Services.
Programs Involved in Integration	Child care licensing, quality State Head Start State pre-K Other: Early childhood mental health, child care resource and referrals
Programs not Involved	Child care subsidy (Department of Human Resources) Early Intervention-Part C (Department of Education) Preschool Special Education-Part B (Department of Education)
Additional Resources	http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/child_care/
MASSACHUSETTS Department of Early Care and Education	
Governance Model	Consolidation/stand-alone new agency or department. State-level independent agency.
Year Established and Mechanism	2005 (Chapter 15D) http://www.malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2004/Chapter205
Authority	Fiscal, policy setting, rule-making
Description of Governance Change	A primary goal of the consolidation of various ECE agencies under the Executive Office of Health and Human Services was to reduce program duplication and overlap across different agencies such as human services and education.
Programs Involved in Integration	Child care subsidy, licensing, quality State Head Start State pre-K State Head Start Preschool special education-Part B
Programs not Involved	Early intervention-Part C (Department of Public Health) Home visiting (Department of Health and Human Services)
Additional Resources	http://www.mass.gov/edu/government/departments-and-boards/department-of-early-education-and-care/ . Also see the Early Education and Care Board (http://www.mass.gov/edu/government/departments-and-boards/board-of-early-education-and-care/)
PENNSYLVANIA Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL)	
Governance Model	Administrative integration across agencies – Oversight is jointly

	shared between the Department of Public Welfare and Department of Education.
Year Established and Mechanism	2004 (HB 4904) http://www.malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2004/Chapter205
Authority	Fiscal, policy setting, rule-making, staffing.
Description of Governance Change	Direct ECE programs under one authority and apply uniform standards across agencies (data, professional development, QRIS, assessment, accountability).
Programs Involved in Integration	Child care subsidy, licensing, quality Head Start State Collaboration Preschool Special Education-Part B State full-day kindergarten Home visiting Other: Children's Trust Fund
Programs not Involved	State pre-K (Department of Education) Early Intervention-Part C (Department of Education)
Additional Resources	http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/dpworganization/%20officeofchilddevelopmentandearlylearning/index.htm

WASHINGTON Department of Early Learning

Governance Model	Cabinet level, non-commissioner level position, director appointed by Governor.
Year Established and Mechanism	2006 (2SBH 2964) http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2005-06/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Laws/House/2964-S2.SL.pdf
Authority	Fiscal, policy setting, rule-making
Description of Governance Change	Systems-level coordination and merging of several different entities
Programs Involved in Integration	Child care subsidy, licensing, quality State Head Start State pre-K Early Intervention-Part C State full-day kindergarten Home Visiting
Programs not Involved	Preschool Special Education-Part B (Department of Public Instruction)
Additional Resources	http://www.del.wa.gov/about/what.aspx http://thrivebyfivewa.org/about/ (Thrive by Five is a nonprofit public-private partnership that works closely with DEL and the Department of Public Instruction.)

National Conference of State Legislatures Childcare and Early Education Legislative Actions Report:

- [2013 Legislative Action Report](#)
- [2012 Legislative Action Report](#)
- [2011 Legislative Action Report](#)

Additional Resources:

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Early Care and Education Governance Structures: State/Territory
https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/1307_governance_structure_state_territory_examples.pdf