

TOP TEN DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS for a “unified early childhood data system in Nebraska.”

Area: State Governance

1. Form a state governance body that establishes goals, policies and strategic plans to guide the collection of, access to and linking of data, as well as adequate data analyses and reporting for evidence-based decision making. The governance body should include representatives from various departments across the state agencies that have extensive use of and need for early childhood data.
2. Identify key measures that are essential for improving child outcomes, programs and services, quality, workforce preparation, and for developing common data definitions.
3. Require all public-funded programs, as well as encourage private-funded programs, to collect and report data on key measures.
4. Standardize data sharing policies and processes for fulfilling data requests within and across agencies which requires programs and IT leaders to articulate for whom and for what purpose data requests will be granted. This ensures access to appropriate individuals and organizations while simultaneously defining security policies needed to protect child privacy.

Area: Children and Families

5. Collect individual-child-level data for longitudinal tracking and linking with health, child welfare, K-12 education, family outcomes and other key data and information management systems.
6. Create a unique, unduplicated, statewide child identifier that remains consistent even if the child moves or enrolls in different programs to enable accurate counts of children receiving different and/or multiple services within the state.

Area: Programs

7. Collect program site data on operation and quality for improving program content and service delivery. Program operation data include funding sources, location and duration. Program quality data are such as staff-child interaction measures, parent engagement, social-emotional supports, learning environment(s) and curriculum.
8. Create a unique, unduplicated program site identifier with the ability to link the program data with the child and workforce data.

Area: Workforce

9. Collect early child care and education workforce data such as demographics, opportunities for professional development, formal and informal training, wages and benefits, and turnover. This includes expediting the completion of development and launch of the web-based Early Childhood Professional Records System.
10. Create a unique, unduplicated workforce identifier assigned to school, center or home-based early care and education providers that enables linking between children and service providers.