The Federal and State Landscape for Early Childhood

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National Trends

- Support for early childhood education has never been stronger
- Consistent across states, voting groups
Federal Initiatives

• Early Learning Challenge
• Strong Start for America’s Children
  – Bill that would provide $75 Billion in federal funding for preschool over 10 years
• Preschool Development Grants
  – “Down payment” on preschool expansion
• Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships
  – Raise the quality of infant/toddler child care for children in poverty
The US is FAR behind the rest of the world

% of 3 yr olds enrolled in ECE

Countries are ranked in descending order of the enrolment rates of 3 year-olds in 2012.
Source: OECD. Table C2.1. See Annex 3 for notes (www.oecd.org/edu/eag.htm).
Illinois is behind other states

18th in number of 4 year olds served
4th in number of 3 year olds
Preschool Expansion Grant

• Illinois submitted a proposal in October
• $20 Million per year for four years
  – Plan for $120 Million state investment over that period
• Focus on providing full-day, high quality preschool & comprehensive services to four year olds with highest needs
  – WITHIN a Birth to 3rd Grade System of comprehensive support
Of children with high needs, by 2016:
• 65% have at least 1 yr high quality* early learning services
• 40% have at least 2 yrs
• 10% have 5 full years
*Gold Circle in ExceleRate Illinois

AND
• 50% of all licensed child care centers achieve above Licensed Circle in QRIS
• 25% achieve Gold Circle

By 2021, 80% of all children will be fully ready for kindergarten
Our Strategic Emphasis

• As we move toward achieving our vision, we will emphasize increasing access to highly intensive and effective services for the most at-risk children—those with multiple High-Needs characteristics
Independent Systems

ISBE

IDHS

Head Start
Systems Evolution - Connect the Dots for Success!
QRIS:
Our System Integration Frame
Single set of standards, multiple forms of evidence

- ExceleRate is designed recognizing that programs already have many kinds of monitoring
- Programs may use different forms of evidence to show that they meet the quality standards
  - Preschool for All monitoring (includes ECERS)
  - Head Start federal reviews and other monitoring systems
  - On-site monitoring by National Louis University (McCormick Center) using Program Administration Scale and ECERS/ITERS/SACERS
  - Accreditation (pending review of accreditations systems alignment with QRIS criteria)
What’s Next

• Preschool Instruction Supports
  – Intensive support for instructional leaders around how to develop and sustain effective professional learning communities and embedded professional development
  – Focusing first on programs that need to move to Gold

• Learn more from the Ounce of Prevention Fund today
What’s Next

• Supports for Awards of Excellence
  – Learn more today!

• Pilot wave of award application process will begin in late winter

• Be thinking about where you want to concentrate your Continuous Quality Improvement efforts!
Thanks for all you do to help our youngest children and their families to grow and develop!