

# Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge

Early Childhood Initiatives Impacting Children with Disabilities

UCEDD 2013 TA Institute

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# Overview

- \* Early Learning at ED
- \* RTT-ELC Overview
- \* Technical Assistance
- \* Joint administration and on-going collaboration
- \* Next steps

# Early Learning at ED

Improve the health, social-emotional, and cognitive outcomes for all children birth through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, especially those with high-needs

# Early Learning Strategic Plan Goals

- Access to high-quality early learning programs
- Effective early learning workforce
- Comprehensive early learning assessment systems

# Why Focus On Early Learning?

- Approximately 40% of all children enter kindergarten without the skills to be successful.
- Over 80% of low income children are not proficient in reading at the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.
- Children do not catch up to their more advantaged peers without intervention

# Early Learning Investments at ED

Title I

IDEA  
Part C  
Part B, 619

Promise  
Neighborhoods

Investing In  
Innovation (i3)



Ready to Learn

Early Learning  
Outcomes Center

Race to the Top

Striving Readers

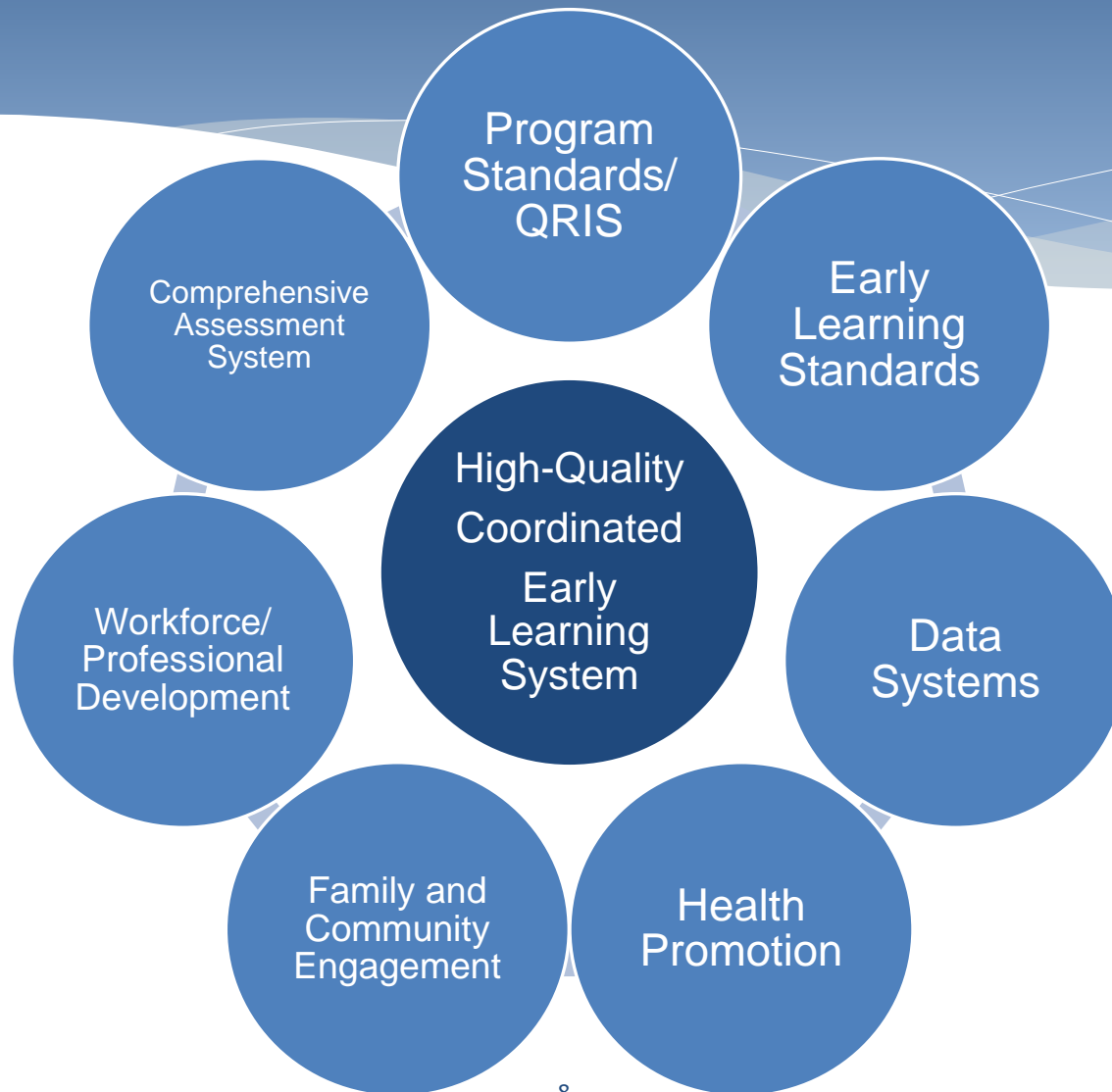
# RTT-ELC Goal

Increasing the number of children entering kindergarten ready to succeed

by

Improving the quality of early learning programs

# High-Quality Early Learning Systems

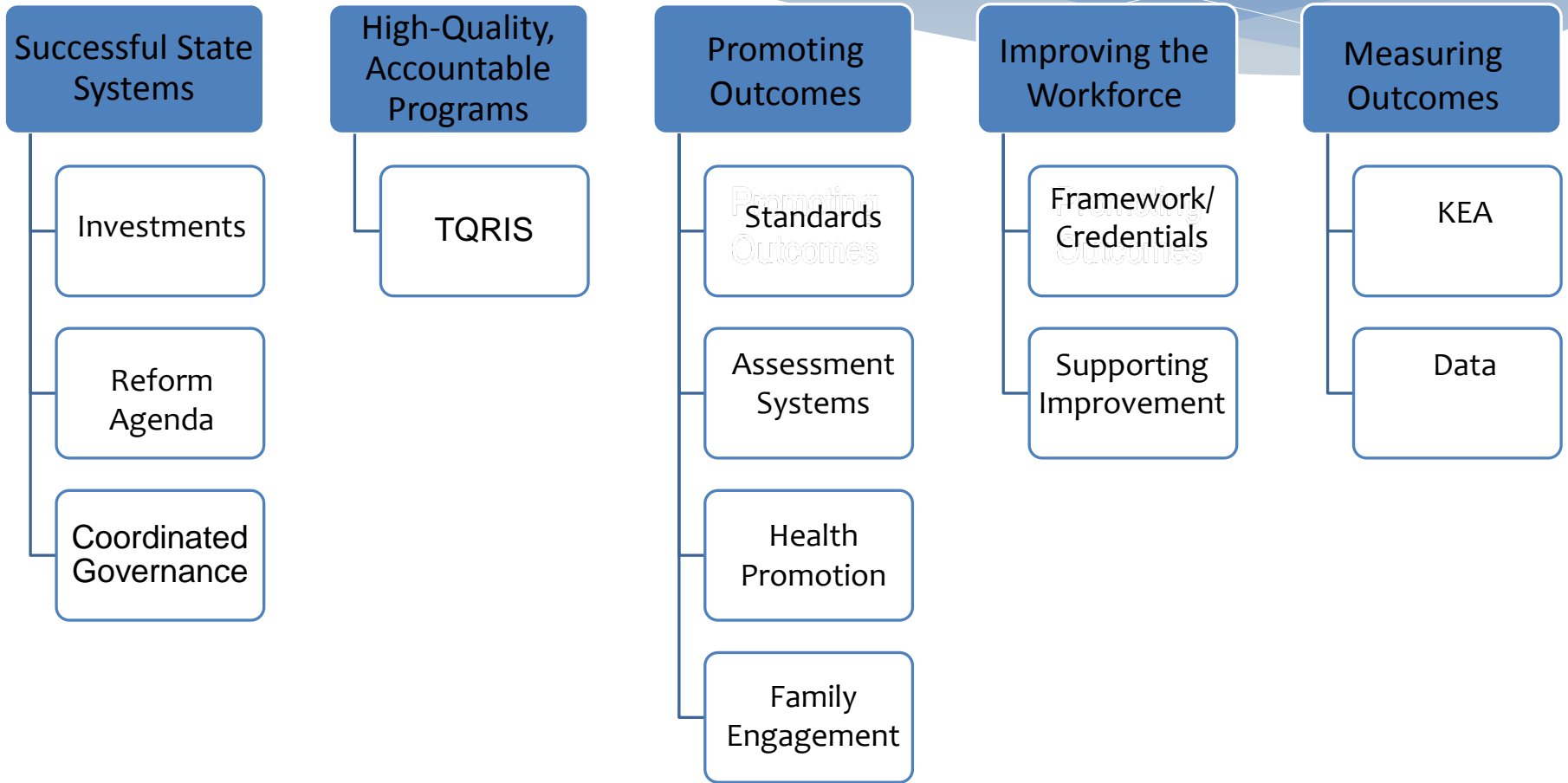




# RTT-ELC as a Catalyst

- \* Based on previous work of States, ED and HHS jointly defined a State System framework for all States
- \* Writing the RTT-ELC application moved States forward even if not funded
- \* Opportunity to better support States in their systems work

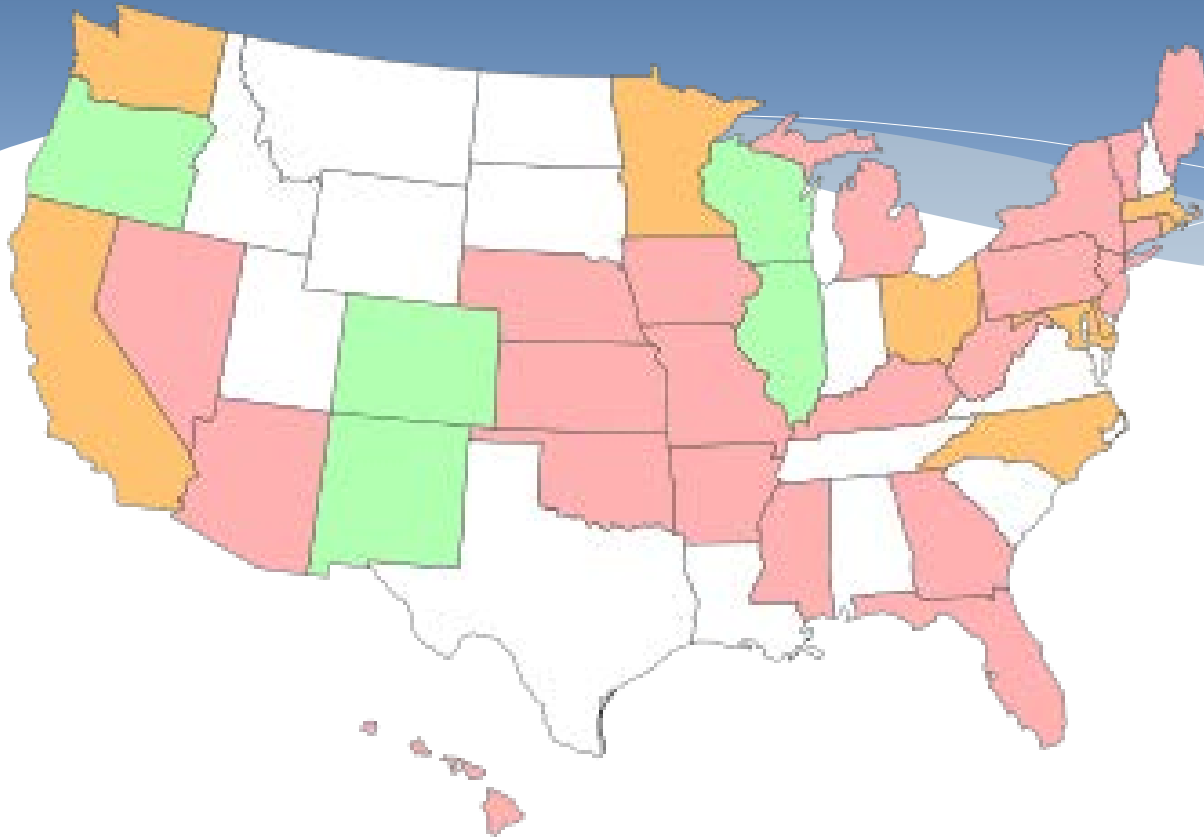
# Key Reform Areas






# Impact on Children with Disabilities

- \* Grantees must maintain participation in IDEA Part B and C
- \* Definition of “Children with High Needs” includes children who have disabilities or developmental delays
- \* Staff work closely with other programs serving children with disabilities (IDEA, Head Start)
- \* States report data on children with disabilities and IDEA programs served.

# 14 RTT-ELC States



-  FY11 applicants (not funded)
-  FY11 grantees
-  FY12 grantees

- California (FY11)
- Colorado (FY12)
- Delaware (FY11)
- Illinois (FY12)
- Maryland (FY11)
- Massachusetts (FY11)
- Minnesota (FY11)
- New Mexico (FY12)
- North Carolina (FY11)
- Ohio (FY11)
- Oregon (FY12)
- Rhode Island (FY11)
- Washington (FY11)
- Wisconsin (FY12)

# Joint Administration and on-going ED-HHS collaboration

- \* Office of Early Learning (OEL) in ED and the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) in HHS
- \* Interagency Policy Board (IPB) for Early Learning
- \* Coordination of TA, Research and Evaluation

# Joint management includes:

- \* Partnering as Project Officers – one ED and one HHS for each grantee
- \* Advising each grantee on its evaluation plan (validation of TQRIS)
- \* Coordinating with related programs like Head Start, Child Care, RTT, IDEA
- \* Ensuring accountability and high performance through monitoring and reporting

# Technical Assistance

- \* ELC TA contract coordinates existing ED/HHS funded TA resources and aligns with the program framework.
- \* Needs assessment conducted for each grantee which will result in a personalized TA plan.
- \* 50 State Strategy to support all states in their systems building work (the RTT-ELC winners, non-winners, and those who did not apply).

# What's Next?

- \* Analyzing first-year Annual Performance Reports.
- \* New grantees (Phase 2) developing Scopes of Work based on approved applications.
- \* President recently announced new preschool initiative: <http://www.ed.gov/early-learning>.



Information on RTT-ELC available at

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop-earlylearningchallenge/>

THANK YOU!