



Local Policy Research and Advocacy Support

School Readiness and Early Grade Success

Early Childhood Systems Scan for Denver

Spring 2008

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The Piton Foundation

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Denver Early Childhood Systems Scan

The Piton Foundation

Introduction

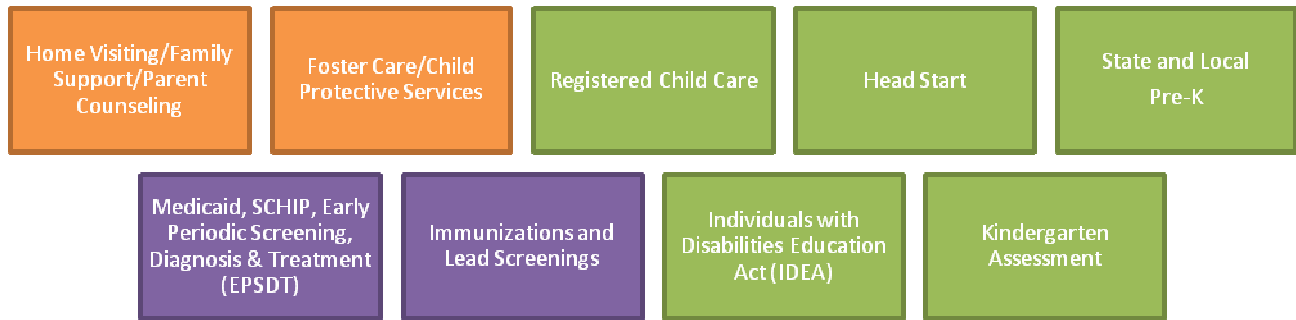
The mission of The Piton Foundation is to provide opportunities for children and families to move from poverty and dependence to self-reliance. As an operating foundation, Piton conducts and disseminates relevant research, develops initiatives, and works to improve public systems and institutions that serve low-income families. The Foundation's areas of interest are improving pre-kindergarten through high school education, expanding economic opportunities for families, and strengthening lower-income communities. School readiness and early grade success cut across all three of these program areas.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF), in collaboration with the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership (NNIP) and the Urban Institute, initiated a grant program designed to support data-driven policy advocacy around children's issues in major American cities. The particular focus of this grant program is school readiness (broadly defined to include healthy social, emotional, and physical child development) and early-grade school success (including school attendance and achievement) and outcomes at the neighborhood level. As the first phase of this effort, Piton conducted an extensive "Systems Scan" of Denver's early childhood system. This scan describes the role and scope in services of early childhood providers in Denver, how well these organizations collaborate, what types of data are available across the system, and potential indicators that could be used to measure progress across the system.

Background

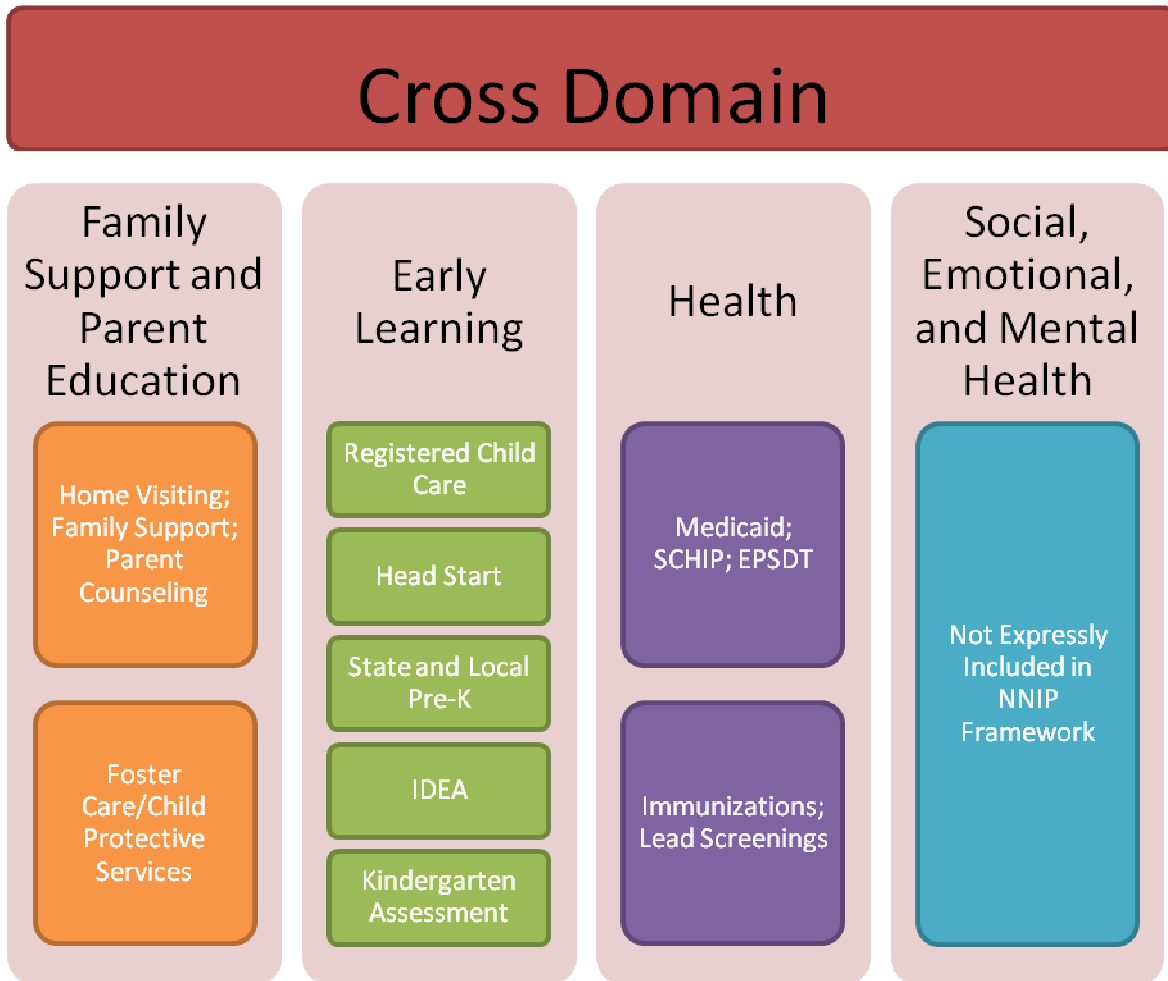
The local system in Denver has strong ties to State early childhood systems. For this reason, The Piton Foundation expanded this scan to include a compilation and review of the entire Colorado early childhood system. This comprehensive systems scan is organized around nine core areas identified by Piton’s national partners at the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership (Chart 1).

Chart 1 – NNIP Early Childhood Systems Framework



The Denver early childhood systems scan is further organized to reflect a systems framework that is accepted as standard practice in Colorado. The Colorado framework includes four umbrella domains: 1) Family Support and Parent Education; 2) Early Learning; 3) Health; and 4) Social, Emotional and Mental Health. Chart 2 shows how NNIP’s nine areas fit into the more Colorado-specific early childhood systems framework.

Chart 2—Colorado Systems Framework Incorporating NNIP



All of the nine NNIP core areas can be contained within Colorado’s four-domain system, primarily under the first three domains of family support and parent education, early learning, and health. Colorado’s system also specifically includes a social, emotional and mental health domain that is not expressly called out in the NNIP framework, although some aspects of the nine domains do have some interaction with mental health services (e.g., child protective services, Head Start and Medicaid/SCHIP may all have some aspect of the mental health system incorporated into these core areas). For the purposes of this systems scan, Colorado has added a social, emotional and mental

health component. In addition, because some entities within the state’s early childhood system work across domains, a cross-domain component was also added.

Research Questions

This scan, organized around NNIP’s core areas, answers the following questions:

1. Who are the organizations in Colorado that address the nine NNIP core areas? What is their role and scope in services?
2. How well are the organizations across the nine NNIP domains collaborating?
3. Where are the services integrated best? Where could coordination be improved?
4. What types of data are available across the system? What types of data are missing or unknown?
5. What potential indicators could the system track to measure progress in each of the nine domains?

In addition to the scan of the programmatic domains, The Piton Foundation houses multiple data sets that support the core indicators of school readiness, as identified by Charles Bruner in *School Readiness Resource Guide and Toolkit: Using Neighborhood Data to Spur Action, Draft* (2006). The data collected to date by the Foundation is listed in Appendix A.

Family Support and Parent Education

Family services in Colorado are predominately operated by non-profit organizations, with funding sources ranging from federal grants to philanthropic support. Many of these resources operate statewide, particularly those that are focused on home visitation and family support. By necessity, more of the foster care and child protection services tend to be locally focused.

Home Visiting/Family Support/Parent Education

Most home visitation and family support programs in Colorado focus on children from birth through age five, presumably because this is a key time in the parenting experience to reach and educate families. Still, some family services programs, such as Assets for Colorado Youth, the Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition, Colorado Family Resource Centers, and Family Advocacy, Care, Education, Support (FACES) serve children and their families from birth until young adulthood. This variation in focus and client demographics necessarily affects the intensity with which organizations are involved in the early childhood system (versus, for instance, the K-12 system).

Agency	Role	Scope	Data Collected
Assets for Colorado Youth	ACY is a nonprofit organization that supports adults in raising healthy young people. ACY's presentations, training, follow-up coaching, technical assistance, and practical, culturally-competent resources strengthen the way adults live and work with youth.	Colorado; Birth-Grade 12; Offers specific training programs for early childhood educators on working with families.	Various reports and publications. Website contains links to multiple resources.
Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition (CSPC-PIRC)	The Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition was created as an opportunity for parents to create an organization that was not affiliated with any established institution ensuring that parents' voices would be the focus of the organization. The CSPC provides parents with information and skills that will help them help their children and their families become more successful in their educational endeavors.	ECE-12th Grade (over 1,000 members statewide). Examples of CSPC services include: training/TA to schools to build School-based Parent Engagement Leadership Teams; an annual statewide conference that addresses issues pertinent to parents in education, social welfare, immigration, language, and culture; a Trainer of Trainers (TOT) workshop to schools or school districts on "Engaging Mexican Immigrant Parents in Their Children's Education."	Various reports and publications. Website contains links to multiple resources.

Agency	Role	Scope	Data Collected
Colorado Bright Beginnings (CBB): Metro Denver Bright Beginnings (MDBB) Warm Welcome Program; and Moving On Program	Colorado Bright Beginnings is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the healthy growth and development of children during the critical first three years of life. Bright Beginnings hopes to influence all Colorado children to reach their full potential to succeed in school and throughout life by educating parents with high quality, developmentally appropriate materials. CBB is the state wide organization established to oversee the individual affiliates in the 13 regions around the state of Colorado. Metro Denver is one of those 13.	MDBB serves Adams, Arapahoe, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, and Jefferson counties. The Warm Welcome program provides visits to parents of newborns, providing information on health, safety, childcare, community resources, health insurance and early brain development. The Moving On program provides visits to parents of children ages 12-24 months offering parents assessments and tools to promote language development during the second year of life. Materials are available in English and Spanish at no cost to families.	Statewide Contacts List by Region (address level); completion of a data form that provides the agency with some demographic information on their clients. This information is kept strictly confidential and is not shared with anyone outside of the organization.
Colorado Family Resource Centers	Family Resource Center Association (FRCA) promotes the well-being of families and communities across Colorado. While each resource center tailors its programs to meet specific concerns facing those in the community it serves, there are many common elements. These include: Resource and referral services; Early childhood education; Parent education and support; Family/adult education program (GED, ESL, job readiness); Youth programs (pre/afterschool activities, summer camps); Emergency basic needs (food/clothing, respite care, transportation, baby needs).	The FRCA partners with its 24 member centers to positively affect 70,000 lives in 40 counties. Denver has three centers, all located in the northeastern part of the city: Focus Points, Cross Community Coalition and Lowry Family Services.	Center Locations (address level). In addition, as of May 2007, all Family Resource Centers in Colorado began using a list of standard measures to evaluate their core services - measures that can be aggregated via the CO KIT system. Colorado KIT (Knowledge-based Information Technology) is a web-based reporting and evaluation system that allows an assortment of social service organizations to enter and report data about their programs, participants and service outcomes. CO KIT offers data access at multiple levels (State, Regional, and Local).

Agency	Role	Scope	Data Collected
Nurse Family Partnership Resource: Invest in Kids (Colorado)	Nurse-Family Partnership is an evidence-based, nurse home visiting program that improves the health, well-being and self-sufficiency of low-income, first-time parents and their children. The Nurse-Family Partnership National Service Office, located in Denver, is a nonprofit organization that provides service to communities in implementing and sustaining this program.	Nurse-Family Partnership Implementing Agencies are supported by a team of public health policy and administration, nursing, education and program evaluation professionals at the National Service Office who collaborate with Public/Private Ventures, based in Philadelphia, Invest in Kids, based in Denver, and other partners in the 23 states where Nurse-Family Partnership is currently established.	Colorado Nurse-Family Partnership Sites (FY07-08) (address level); Randomized controlled trials were conducted with Elmira, New York, 1977; in Memphis, Tennessee, 1988; and Denver, Colorado, 1994. Follow-up research continues today, studying the long-term outcomes for mothers and children in the three trials. Data are collected from Nurse-Family Partnership replication sites through the web-based Clinical Information System (CIS).
Parents as Teachers (PAT) – Born to Learn and MELD programs.	PAT has the overarching program philosophy of providing parents with child development knowledge and parenting support. PAT has trained and certified parent educators who make monthly home visits to families (with higher frequency based on family need) beginning prenatally through age 5. Home visits help parents understand what to expect in each stage of their child's development and offer tips on ways to encourage learning, manage challenging behavior, promote strong parent-child relationships, and access community resources. Health and developmental screening is included.	About 3,000 sites offer Parents as Teachers services across the country and around the world. Colorado PAT Programs serve approximately 2,150 families. Denver programs that offer PAT services include: Focus Points PAT/HIPPY; Metro State Parents as Teachers Program; Migrant Education Even Start (MEES); Rocky Mountain Parents as Teachers; North Aurora CRC/PAT.	Listed as a model program by: Strengthening America's Families: Effective family programs for prevention of delinquency (http://www.strengtheningfamilies.org/); "What Works" in Child Trends Guide to Effective Programs for Children and Youth: Education and Cognitive Development: Home Visiting (http://www.childtrends.org/); the Proven and Promising Practices website (http://www.promisingpractices.net/); the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (http://casat.unr.edu/westcapt/); the National Diffusion Network, 1995 (www.ed.gov).

Agency	Role	Scope	Data Collected
Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)	HIPPY is a parent involvement, school readiness program that helps parents prepare their three, four, and five year old children for success in school and beyond. HIPPY is a home visitation program that offers parents a personalized approach to enhancing their children's school readiness.	There are currently 146 HIPPY sites in 25 states and Washington DC. Colorado HIPPY Programs serve approximately 700 families in Adams, Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Denver, Jefferson, Rio Grande, and Saguache Counties. Services are provided by 6 individual HIPPY programs actively collaborating in their local communities. Several HIPPY programs are blended with Bright Beginnings, PAT, Even Start, PIRC, and Head Start.	List of sites in Colorado (6). Website offers basic HIPPY and PAT demographic and geographic reach information. In addition to national and statewide research, each local program collects client-specific and service-utilization data through the HIPPY MIS (Management Information System) on an annual basis. The annual reports can be accessed as pdf files from http://www.hippyusa.org/Research/mis.html .
Colorado Parent & Child Foundation (CPCF)	Located in Denver, CPCF represents both HIPPY and PAT programs in Colorado. CPCF serves to increase the visibility of home visitation programs throughout the state, leverage resources more effectively, and streamline administrative processes.	See "Scope" under PAT and HIPPY program descriptions.	Various reports and publications
Family Advocacy, Care, Education, Support (FACES)	Provides parenting education, support, and advocacy services for the prevention of child abuse, neglect. Services help families with children ages birth to 12, and are inclusive of families with parents or children who have disabilities, mental illness or substance abuse issues.	Services are provided to families living in: Denver County; Jefferson County; Adams County; Arapahoe County; and, to a limited extent, Douglas and Broomfield counties. Services are generally home-based, but also may occur in the workplace, homeless shelters, schools and daycares.	Unknown Data Availability

Agency	Role	Scope	Data Collected
Even Start Family Literacy Services	Even Start is authorized under Title I of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Title I supports programs in schools and school districts to improve the learning of children from low-income families. Even Start serves to help break the cycle of poverty and illiteracy by improving the educational opportunities of the state's low-income families, through the integration of adult literacy, early childhood education, and parenting support into a unified family program.	Offered statewide, the Denver Family Literacy program is managed by Metro State College of Denver. Metro's Family Literacy Program offers four comprehensive home- and school-based literacy programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) & Parents as Teachers (PAT) • Family Focused Early Childhood Education • Toyota Family Literacy Program • Adult Basic Education 	Child outcomes
Parent Pathways	Parent Pathways helps teen parents raise healthy families. Programs include: Florence Crittenton School, which provides education, parenting and life-skills services; Early Learning Center, a program for the infants and toddlers of the teen mothers who attend the Florence Crittenton School; Young Fathers Services, which assists with pre-employment counseling, parenting classes, employment readiness, tutoring and GED support; and Housing Services, which provides transitional housing for 38 young families.	Approximately 600 individuals in the Denver metro area were directly served by Parent Pathways.	Unknown Data Availability

Agency	Role	Scope	Data Collected
Reach out and Read	An evidence-based, national non-profit organization that makes early literacy a standard part of pediatric primary care. Following the ROR model, at every well-child check-up, doctors and nurses encourage parents to read aloud to their young children, and offer age-appropriate tips and encouragement. Pediatricians, family physicians and nurses also give every child a new, developmentally appropriate children's book. In literacy rich waiting room environments, parents and children learn about the pleasures and techniques of looking at books together.	ROR operates in several clinics and health centers throughout Denver and the state.	Since 1991 the ROR model has been studied by academic investigators in a variety of settings, providing a growing body of peer-reviewed research on the effects of the program.

Collaboration:

A number of the family support programs and organizations in Colorado have overlapping purposes. For instance, Colorado/Metro Denver Bright Beginnings, the Nurse Family Partnership and Parents as Teachers (PAT) all offer home visits to families of newborns, although the focus and intensity of their visits differ. These specific programs have developed a somewhat formalized coalition of home visitation programs through which they can regularly collaborate and share information. In other instances, however, partnerships between family services organizations happen on a more case-by-case basis or around a specific project or mutual client base that brings them together for a one-time-only function.

Potential Indicators

Potential indicators to measure the progress in this domain include:

Percentage of low-income families with children ages birth-3 receiving home visits (Bright Beginnings, Nurse Family Partnership)

Percentage of eligible children ages 3-5 enrolled in an early literacy program (e.g., PAT, HIPPY, Even Start)

Percentage of eligible parents of children birth-5 who earn their GED

Percentage of eligible parents of children birth-5 who take English-as-a-Second language classes

Percentage of low-income parents with children ages birth-5 who complete established parenting classes.

Foster Care/Child Protective Services

Foster care and child protective services are organized to serve all children from birth to eighteen years of age. As such, they are not exclusively focused on early childhood. However, because children who have been neglected or abused and who may have lived with more than one family in their lives are less likely to be ready for school or to succeed once there, it is a crucial part of the early childhood systems framework. A couple of statewide programs exist through the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) to provide oversight and resources to support foster and child care services at the local level. In addition, the county governments serving metropolitan Denver each have their own child protective and foster care services to serve their specific communities. Colorado is also home to a number of non-profit organizations that offer foster care recruitment and support services to families.

Agency	Role	Scope	Data Collected
Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS): Foster Care/Child Protective Services	Colorado is a state-supervised, county-administered system for the traditional social services, including programs such as public assistance and child welfare services.	CDHS oversees the state's 64 county departments of social/human services, providing protective services to children and vulnerable adults, including foster care and adoption.	List of county departments of social services. Various data available from individual counties.
Colorado Department of Human Services: Promoting Safe & Stable Families (PSSF)	The Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program (PSSF) is guided and funded by the Federal Adoption and Safe Families Act, Title IV-B, sub-part 2. Local projects provide a variety of family preservation and family support services to families in times of need or crisis.	PSSF projects in Colorado provide services in 40 counties and one Indian reservation. Projects are operated by local departments of social services or community-based agencies. They are designed based on the needs of their particular communities, and so services vary from place to place in the state.	Unknown Data Availability
Denver Department of Human (DDHS) Services	The vision of the Denver Department of Human Services is partnering with the community to protect those in harm's way and help all people in need. Services are provided through partnerships that help families and individuals move toward independence, maintain pride and dignity and realize their potential.	DDHS administers programs around Adoption, Child Care, Child Protection, Developmentally Delayed, Child Services, Drop-In Child Care, Foster Care, Medicaid for Families and Children, Child Abuse	"Denver Department of Human Services Strategic Plan FY 2007 – 2012" Division-level strategic plans including goals, strategies, objectives, action steps, and outcome measures for the work.
Child Welfare Information Gateway (national)	Child Welfare Information Gateway promotes the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and families by connecting child welfare, adoption and related professionals as well as concerned citizens to timely, essential information.	Provides access to information and resources to help protect children and strengthen families. A service of the Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.	Reports, databases, and other sources of statistics and demographic data on children and families in the United States, child abuse and neglect, child welfare services, children and youth in foster care, and domestic and international adoption.

Agency	Role	Scope	Data Collected
Family to Family	Created by the Casey Foundation in 1992 and adopted in Denver in 2002, the program is a shared effort between Denver Human Services, Colorado Human Services, seven neighborhood partners, hundreds of community liaisons, and the Casey Foundation. The Denver Family to Family host site will be regularly visited by child welfare agencies from around the country to share its innovative achievements and practice reforms in foster care and child welfare.	Denver was named as one of three host sites, along with Cleveland, OH and Louisville, KY. These are locations where other public agencies will come to observe and learn child welfare “best practices” based on four core strategies of team decision-making, recruitment and support of foster resource families, community partnerships and evaluation. Denver is also one of 15 national anchor sites. All anchor sites will help other child welfare agencies around the country through support and training.	Unknown Data Availability
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Prevention Services Division: Colorado Children's Trust Fund (CCTF).	The CCTF serves to prevent child abuse and neglect by funding proposals that direct services to families expecting a new child or with children 0-3 years of age. Programs funded by the CCTF focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and support for all parents. • Children's safety and injury prevention. • Home visitation, guided by the standards established by Healthy Families Colorado. • Prenatal and perinatal health and education services for teen parents. • Public awareness and media campaigns. 	A nine member Board of Directors, appointed by the Governor, governs the CCTF with representatives from various fields as well as the Departments of Education, Human Services and Public Health and Environment. Proposals are sought from public or private non-profit agencies in Colorado; those eligible for consideration must fit the definition of either primary prevention or secondary prevention as opposed to tertiary prevention (which is defined as services provided after abuse or neglect has occurred).	List of State and national resources for child abuse prevention; Programs funded by the CCTF are required to submit a six-month progress report and a year-end report. The reports demonstrate project achievements and summarize evaluation data.

Agency	Role	Scope	Data Collected
The Tony Grampsas Youth Services (TGYS) Program	<p>Provides funding to community-based organizations that serve children, youth and their families with services designed to reduce youth crime and violence and to prevent child abuse and neglect. Eligible entities include non profits, local governments, schools, and faith-based organizations.</p> <p>The TGYS Program supports four funding areas including: early childhood, student dropout prevention, youth mentoring and violence prevention programs.</p>	For fiscal year 2006-07, the TGYS Board allocated \$6,300,537 to 186 local TGYS providers through 104 grants. TGYS-funded programs served 52 out of the 64 Colorado counties and reached 39,059 children, youth and adults. Of this total, 35,171 of the individuals served were children and youth, and 3,924 of the individuals were parents or caregivers.	The TGYS evaluation is designed primarily to assess program participants' change in outcomes from intake (pre-test) to the end of program services (post-test). TGYS contracted with the OMNI Institute to design and manage a statewide outcome evaluation of the direct, measurable impacts among individuals served through the TGYS Program. Service providers participate in an evaluation design that yields local-level and aggregate data.
The Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect	<p>Considered a world leader in the child protection movement by: Evaluating and diagnosing children who are suspected victims of abuse and neglect; Providing treatment and therapy for abused and neglected children and their families; Developing and testing new programs to help children; Training professionals such as doctors, teachers and social workers to protect and heal abused children and support good parenting skills; Conducting studies that assist in program development and public policy making.</p>	As part of the University of Colorado School of Medicine, the Kempe Center works with The Children's Hospital and the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center. Directed by some of the nation's leading experts, The Kempe Center hosts nine innovative programs that treat abused children (from birth to age 18), train medical professionals and research new treatment methods to help and heal the most vulnerable children.	Various publications

Agency	Role	Scope	Data Collected
Mile High United Way: 2-1-1 Colorado	2-1-1 is the national abbreviated dialing code for free access to health and human services information and referral. 2-1-1 Colorado makes a critical connection, via referrals, between individuals and families in need and the appropriate community-based organizations and government agencies.	In 2008, more than 120,000 people will dial three simple numbers to get or give help in Colorado. Referrals include: Low-cost child care; Employment services; Mental health counseling; Protection from family violence; Help for an elderly parent; Referrals on more than 4,000 health and human services are available through 2-1-1.	Unknown Data Availability

Collaboration:

There is fairly extensive collaboration between the entities at both the state and local levels within the child protective and foster care systems. County child protective agencies must frequently collaborate with their sister agencies in other jurisdictions on specific cases, and many public agencies also contract with the non-profit foster care services to reach out to, recruit and retain foster families. Unfortunate stories of system failures that appear in the news demonstrate that these collaborations are not always as successful as everyone would desire, and it is unclear to what extent the entities from this core area collaborate with those described under the family services and parenting support areas. It is likely that there is room for growth and improvement in collaboration within the broader family services domain, as well as at a policy level within this specific core area of foster care and child protective services.

Potential Indicators:

There are several key indicators that can be tracked in this area to determine success:

Percentage of children in the community referred to child protective services

Percentage of children in the community in foster care

Percentage of children ages birth-5 in foster care who are also receiving early childhood education services

Percentage of children in foster care who are also receiving mental health services

Early Learning

Of all the domains in Colorado’s early childhood system, the early learning domain is the most clearly focused on the needs of children birth to five years old. Organizations in Colorado that fall under this domain are operated by a combination of public, non-profit and private entities at both the local and state levels. Early learning can be a common point of entry into the early childhood education system for many families of young children. This domain consists of child care, preschool, pre-kindergarten and Head Start. Also included in this domain are Resource and Referral services, quality ratings and accreditation systems, Child Find, and early learning assessment tools. While there are connections between the early childhood education system and the K-12 system, both are distinct systems with different agencies and rules governing their operations.

Registered Child Care

In Colorado, the area of licensed child care includes resource and referral, center-based and family child care associations, and public programs for public assistance, child care licensing and program oversight. The state agency with primary policy and governance responsibilities for child care is the Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care. This agency oversees the Colorado

Child Care Assistance Program (a child care subsidy program for low-income parents), licensed child care providers, and promulgates rules and regulations regarding child care policies and issues.

Agency	Role	Scope	Data Collected
Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (CCR&R): Qualistar Early Learning	Qualistar Early Learning is the childcare resource and referral network for the state of Colorado. The Qualistar Rating measures quality in licensed early learning programs, both home and center based, that serve children birth to kindergarten.	Qualistar Early Learning is a statewide non-profit organization working with childcare providers, parents, and communities to improve the quality of early childhood education in Colorado. The network consists of 17 agencies throughout the state that assist parents, childcare providers, and their local communities.	Monthly Data Report (enrollment, capacity & referrals by County); Year to Date Report (enrollment, capacity & referrals by County); Qualistar has an extensive database that includes information on teacher education, ratings, credentials, licensure, childcare workforce statistics, and training programs.
Colorado Department of Human Services: Division of Child Care	The Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care is the State's lead agency in planning and implementing public childcare policy. The overall goal of the Division of Child Care is to promote quality, accessible and affordable childcare services for Colorado families.	The Division of Child Care is responsible for the licensing and monitoring of child care facilities; administering child care grants and quality initiatives, and serving as the lead in implementing federal child care programs.	Comprehensive listing of licensed providers, applications, denials, changes.
Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care: Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP)	The Colorado Department of Human Services is the lead agency on the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP). CCCAP provides financial assistance to low-income families that are working, searching for employment or who are in training, and to families that are enrolled in the Colorado Works Program and need child care services to support their efforts toward self-sufficiency.	CCCAP is administered through county departments of social services under the direction of the Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care. Counties set eligibility for families, but must serve families that have income of 130% or less of the federal poverty guideline and may not serve families that have income of over 225% of federal poverty level.	CCCAP Annual Program Information (by State and by County) for 2006 CCCAP Annual Program Information (by State and by County) for 2007. CDHS, Division of Child Care maintains and manages CHATS, the CCCAP database, which includes a wealth of information on client demographics, subsidy statistics, and provider information.

Agency	Role	Scope	Data Collected
The Denver County Department of Health and Human Services (DDHS): Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)	CCAP is a federally-funded program that helps eligible low-income families transitioning off public assistance pay for childcare. The DDHS contracts with Aspen Family Services to determine CCAP eligibility, enrollment and case management. Denver families find out about CCAP through TANF workers; however, families with incomes below 225% of the federal poverty level also qualify.	Denver CCAP works with about 500 providers in Denver. In 2007, CCAP enrollment averaged 4,850 children and 2,300 families per month in Denver.	See above.
Colorado Early Childhood Summit	The Colorado Early Childhood Summit is a coalition of statewide leaders in early childhood care and education. The Summit works to improve early childhood services and systems through discussing issues, providing information and collaborating on advocacy to shape public policy	The Colorado Early Childhood Summit is a membership coalition representing the leadership and decision makers of the largest statewide early childhood organizations.	Unknown Data Availability
Denver Children's Task Force	Denver providers who accept Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) funds meet monthly with Denver Department of Human Services' CCCAP program to voice concerns, advocate, and partner to make CCCAP a more family-friendly process.	Denver City and County; birth through age 12.	Provider list (address level)

Agency	Role	Scope	Data Collected
Denver Early Childhood Council (DECC)	DECC is a policy-making board that serves to secure adequate funding in order to provide comprehensive quality early childhood education in order to start young children and their families on the road to success in school and in their lives.	The committee includes representation from the Mayor of Denver's office, Denver Public Schools, Denver City Council, City Agencies, Head Start, Private for Profit and Non-profit Child Care and Education providers, Health Professionals, Parents and the Business Community.	Unknown Data Availability

Collaboration:

Collaboration within Denver’s licensed child care groups happens through the Denver Children’s Taskforce and the Denver Early Childhood Council. Statewide collaboration occurs through The Colorado Early Childhood Summit, which is a coalition of early learning leaders working together to identify and move key policy items to improve early learning services and support. This coalition represents nine statewide organizations:

- Colorado Alliance for Quality School Age Programs
- Colorado Association for the Education of Young Children
- Colorado Association of Family Child Care
- Colorado Child Care Association
- Colorado Children's Campaign
- Colorado Division for Early Childhood
- Colorado Head Start Association
- Colorado Parent-Teacher Association
- Qualistar Early Learning

In addition to these nine organizations, other statewide organizational representatives attend and participate in discussions (although they cannot vote on any decisions made by the Summit).

Within Denver, the Denver Children’s Task Force is a primary venue for collaboration around child care issues, particularly as they relate to involvement in the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP). The Denver Early Childhood Council, a collaboration of early childhood stakeholders across domains, also provides a forum for collaboration around many child care issues.

Agency	Role	Scope	Data Collected
Denver's Great Kids Head Start (DGKHS)	The vision of DGKHS is to prepare enrolled 3 to 5 year olds to enter kindergarten confidently with the social, physical, emotional and cognitive skills and competencies necessary for continuing school success. DGKHS is a program in the Denver Mayor’s Office for Education and Children, and creates partnerships with community organizations such as Denver Health, Mental Health Center of Denver and Sewall Child Development Center.	DGKHS provides early childhood education to more than 1,000 preschool children and their families in Denver. Five community-based delegate agencies offer a range of services for children ages 3 to 5 years. These agencies include: Catholic Charities, Volunteers of America, Clayton Family Futures, Denver Public Schools Early Education, and Mile High Montessori Early Learning Centers.	Program locations (address level); Delegate Agencies; Task Force Contact List; 2004 Community Assessment; Head Start Report.
Rocky Mountain SER Head Start	The program is designed to assist in the cognitive, emotional, physical and social development of children and provides opportunities for parents and families to become self-sufficient. The program uses a dual language curriculum with materials and lessons, which are age appropriate and culturally and linguistically tailored to the children and families served.	Rocky Mountain SER operates 80 Head Start Centers in Colorado serving 2100 children and their families. Locations include Denver, Pueblo, Conejos, Trinidad, and Grand Junction. The Rocky Mountain SER Head Start program provides early child development services for children between the ages of 3-5 years old.	Program locations (address level); Delegate Agencies; Task Force Contact List; 2004 Community Assessment; Head Start Report.

Colorado Head Start Association	The Colorado Head Start Association (CSHA) supports the work of Head Start programs and their partners with information sharing and advocacy, within the context of the early childhood system in Colorado.		Grantee and Delegate List (address level); Website offers links to various community resources and policy information.
Colorado Lieutenant Governor's Office: Colorado Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO)	The intent of the Head Start-State Collaboration Office is to facilitate Head Start's involvement in the development of state policies and plans that affect low-income families, as well as to encourage Head Start agencies to collaborate with entities at the state level.	The HSSCO serves as a state liaison between the Head Start Regional Office and the local Head Start grantees.	The Colorado Crosswalk of Federal and State Requirements for Early Childhood Education Services shows key elements of Head Start and other state and national program standards. The database also can serve as an at-a-glance resource for identifying differences and similarities among different standards, as well as a springboard for determining ways to overcome barriers to successful early education partnerships.
Early Head Start	As with Head Start, Early Head Start (EHS) offers children and families comprehensive child development services through center-based, home-based, and combination program options. EHS also serves children through locally designed family child care options, in which certified child care providers care for children in their homes. EHS services children from birth to 3 years of age or when they are transitioned into an appropriate preschool setting.	EHS is for low-income families who meet the Federal poverty guidelines; at least 10% of the slots be made available to children with disabilities. EHS programs in Denver include: The Clayton Foundation; Catholic Charities; and Family Star.	Program locations (address level); Community Assessment; Head Start Report.

Potential Indicators:

Child care indicators that can be tracked for progress in this area include:

Improvement in Qualistar ratings at child care centers and homes

Increases in the number of professional early childhood credentials awarded

Percent of licensed child care providers that have received a Qualistar rating and/or accreditation

Percent of early childhood teacher with post-secondary degrees

Percentage increase in the number of eligible families accessing Child Care Assistance Program subsidies

Percentage increase in the number of child care providers that accept families on Child Care Assistance subsidies

Number of child care providers per 1,000 children birth-5 years of age

Head Start

In Denver, programs are offered in both Head Start (which serves families with children ages 3 to 5) and Early Head Start (which serves families with children birth to 3). There are two local grantees for Head Start in Denver: Denver's Great Kids Head Start and Rocky Mountain SER Head Start. Rocky Mountain SER also provides services in Pueblo, Trinidad, Conejos, and Grand Junction. Early Head Start programs in Denver are operated by The Clayton Foundation, Catholic Charities and Family Star. Additional Head Start and Early Head Start programs are offered in other parts of the metro area and state by designated grantees.

Collaboration:

The Colorado Head Start Association provides a venue for Head Start grantees in the state to collaborate, share information, and coordinate efforts. Because the Head Start program is very comprehensive in the services it must offer (e.g., parent education, health screenings, nutrition, etc.), it is by nature, very collaborative across more traditional domains. Rocky Mountain SER and Denver's Great Kids (the two Head Start providers for the City and County of Denver) coordinated efforts to produce the 2004 Denver Comprehensive Community Assessment. The assessment provides in-depth information and analyses focused on the strengths, needs and resources of families with children birth to 5 years old throughout the City and County of Denver. In 2007, the assessment was updated to include more current data and all Head Start delegates within metro Denver participated in the data collection and analysis.

As a key player in the early childhood care system, Head Start is at the table in Colorado's and Denver's most active collaborative efforts. In fact, because of the importance of Head Start in serving the needs of low income families with young children, the Lt. Governor's Office houses a Head Start-State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) that facilitates Head Start's involvement in the development of state policies and plans that affect low-income families. This office encourages the collaboration of Head Start grantees with entities at the state level. The HSSCO also serves as a state liaison between the Head Start Regional Office and the local Head Start grantees.

Potential Indicators:

Indicators that may be used to track the success of Head Start in insuring school readiness and early school success include:

Percentage of eligible children enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start programs

Continuity of clients' enrollment in Head Start and Early Head Start programs

Qualistar ratings of participating Head Start programs

State and Local Preschool

Colorado has made early learning a priority through the recently formed P-20 Education Council, a special advisory panel created by Governor Bill Ritter and Lt. Governor Barbara O'Brien to address the challenges facing Colorado's educational systems from preschool to graduate school. Out of this group, the P-3 Subcommittee was created to identify policies for expanding, monitoring, and effectively coordinating early childhood education throughout Colorado.

Regarding funding, there is a complex system in Denver (and Colorado) that provides public dollars to encourage preschool enrollment for low-income families. For over ten years, Colorado has had a publicly funded preschool program for four-year olds called the Colorado Preschool Program (CPP), formerly known as the Colorado Preschool and Kindergarten Program (CPKP). CPP has experienced several increases in funding and availability of slots due in part to its funding through the traditional school finance bill. CPP has traditionally funded approximately 14,000 preschool slots in the state.

In Denver, voters recently passed a sales tax initiative that is funding the newly created Denver Preschool Program (DPP). DPP provides tuition assistance to any Denver family that wants to send

their child to preschool, with amounts determined by family income levels and the quality ratings of the programs selected for enrollment.

Agency	Role	Scope	Data Collected
Lieutenant Governor's Office: P-3 Subcommittee	Gov. Ritter's new P-20 Education Coordinating Council serves to ensure that a seamless education system from pre-school to grad-school is preparing Colorado's young people for the demands of the 21st Century. The P-3 Subcommittee was created to identify options for expanding, monitoring, and effectively coordinating early childhood education in Colorado.	This sub-committee focuses on policies related to the earliest years of the education continuum, beginning with the years before children enter school (Preschool) and extending through 3rd grade, transcending the traditional boundaries of early care and education and elementary school. P-3 also includes the K-3 primary school years.	Agenda minutes
Denver Preschool Program (DPP)	The Denver Preschool Program, approved by voters in November 2006, provides parents with a tuition credit to use at the preschool of their choice. It is open and voluntary for all Denver families with a child in their last year before kindergarten, and includes licensed preschool providers who agree to participate in a quality improvement system.	DPP provides: 1) tuition credits for families to send their kids to the preschool of their choice; 2) outreach and enrollment so everyone who wants to can take advantage of this opportunity; 3) quality improvement system to make sure all preschools are good preschools; 4) accountability; and 5) measurement and reporting.	List of DPP Approved Providers (address level); Quality ratings; Child outcomes; Family income; Overall DPP program evaluation.

Agency	Role	Scope	Data Collected
Colorado Department of Education (CDE): Colorado Preschool Program (CPP)	The Colorado General Assembly established the Colorado Preschool Program to serve children who lack overall learning readiness due to individual and family risk factors. These risk factors increase the likelihood that children will fail to achieve their full potential, will need special services in the later years, will drop out of school at an early age, and will become involved in criminal activities. By providing a quality early childhood program and family support, the Colorado Preschool Program is proving these risk factors do not have to preclude high achievement.	CPP serves children ages four or five years old who are eligible for kindergarten the next year. A three year old may also be served in CPP if the child lacks overall learning readiness attributable to at least three significant family risk factors. The number of children who can be served in the Colorado Preschool Program is capped at a level set by the State Legislature. Only 5% of CPP slots can be used to fund a child using two slots. Children are automatically eligible for CPP funding if they are receiving services from the State Department of Human Services as neglected or dependent children. If a child has an Individual Education Plan (IEP) and qualifies for services from special education, that child can not be funded under CPP.	Slot Allocation Data for FY 2003-04 through 2008-09; CPP Directory (address level, with respective slot allocations per provider; by county); Each January, CDE reports to the State Legislature on the effectiveness of CPP. The 2008 Colorado Preschool Program Legislative Report is available on the CDE website and can provide a number of examples of how school districts are measuring the effectiveness of the Colorado Preschool Program. In addition, CDE is implementing an initiative, "Results Matter," to capture child outcomes. Any school district that is awarded CPP slots must participate in "Results Matter."

Collaboration:

As an integral part of the early learning domain, the state and local preschool programs do engage in collaborative efforts. Since slots for CPP are only part-day (approximately 2.5 hours), program coordinators at sites offering CPP frequently work simultaneously with other publicly funded child care and education funding (e.g., CCCAP, DPP or Head Start) to extend services to children who need a full day of care and education. In addition, approximately 30% of the CPP slots in the state are housed at facilities run by non-profit community providers, while another 70% are used in local

school districts. At the same time, differing class size requirements and applications have at times hampered collaboration between CPP and other publicly funded care and education programs. Similarly, the Denver Preschool Program is apparently already having some difficulties coordinating with other similar programs, particularly around providing a common application procedure and negotiating which program should be responsible for the first dollars out to fund an eligible child's tuition.

Potential Indicators:

Tracking the progress of state and local pre-kindergarten initiatives will require indicators such as:

Percentage of eligible children enrolled in CPP

Percentage of eligible children accessing Denver Preschool Program funds

Ratings of CPP and DPP providers, as measured by Qualistar ratings, ECERS scores and/or accreditation

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act covers individuals from birth through age 21, but has a specific section, Part C, that deals with children birth to age 3. Children 3 and older are covered by Part B of the act. In Colorado, several systems have been set up to implement the act and to ensure that eligible children receive the full range of services needed to ensure their successful participation in the education system. Key to Colorado's implementation in the early childhood arena are:

- Child Find – a program of the Colorado Department of Education that identifies preschool children that are eligible for special education services;

- Early Childhood Connections – Colorado’s Infant and Toddler initiative under IDEA; and
- Community Centered Boards – community based early intervention collaborative that provide support and services to infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities, and their families.

Agency	Role	Scope	Data Collected
Colorado Department of Education Early Childhood Initiatives: Child Find, Colorado's Child Identification System	Child Find, Colorado's Child Identification System, is a program administered through the Colorado Department of Education to identify preschool children that are eligible for preschool special education services.	Evaluations are conducted by the Child Find team at no cost to parents. Once the Individual Education Program (IEP) team, which includes the parents, has determined that a child is eligible for special education services an IEP is developed and services begin shortly.	Link to searchable database of licensing histories and provider file review for child care facilities.
Early Childhood Connections AND Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities, Community Centered Boards	Early Childhood Connections is Colorado's Infant and Toddler Initiative under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. This interagency initiative provides early intervention supports and services to families who have children ages birth through two years of age. The Lead Agency for implementation is the Colorado Department of Human Services.	The Colorado Department of Human Services, Division for Developmental Disabilities administers the Early Intervention System and Early Childhood Connections Program in Colorado and contracts with twenty Community Centered Boards statewide to provide early intervention supports and services to infants, toddlers, and their families within their communities.	Facts and Figures about Eligible Children (State Data Reports FFY2005 and earlier) -- Part C of IDEA; Directory of Community Centered Boards. IDEA Data Tables and Reports (Office of Special Education Programs, U.S. Dept. of Ed Required Data Tables).

Collaboration:

The very nature of IDEA requires a high level of collaboration and cooperation around service delivery. Under Part C, infants and toddlers who are identified for services are assigned a case coordinator to work with the family to coordinate appropriate services. Under Part B, children become part of the more formalized education system, but a high amount of coordination with

facets of the health and mental health systems is still a large part of service delivery. Early in 2006, governance of Part C was transferred by executive order from the Colorado Department of Education to the Colorado Department of Human Services.

Potential Indicators:

Percentage of eligible children birth-under 3 receiving Part C services

Percentage of eligible children 3-5 receiving Part B services

Number of Child Find referrals resulting in services

Number of children with IFSPs and IEPs

Kindergarten Assessment

The Colorado Basic Literacy Act (CBLA) was enacted by the Colorado Legislature in 1997 requiring school districts to ensure that students meet certain literacy standards at different points throughout their school experience. As part of this act, which was updated in 2004, the state school board required that kindergarten students across the state be assessed annually for reading readiness using one of three possible standardized assessments: the DRA-2, DIBELS or PAL. While districts are only required to assess annually, many districts, including Denver, assess kindergarten reading levels early in the school year and then again mid-year and at the end of the year. In addition to this state literacy requirement, the Colorado Department of Education has also recently developed an early childhood outcomes assessment program called “Results Matter” that Colorado Preschool and Kindergarten Program (CPKP) and special education programs are required to implement. Under this program, early childhood programs provide ongoing assessments of children’s progress toward developmental and educational milestones that prepare them for success in school. This information is reported to the Department of Education for analysis and is also used at the provider level to inform instruction and communicate with families. Similar to Results Matter,

Denver’s early childhood community created and has been using its own assessment, The Early Education Standards Assessment for Readiness Tool (ESTART), to guide classroom instruction and report on child outcomes.

Agency	Role	Scope	Data Collected
Colorado Basic Literacy Act (CBLA)	The Colorado Basic Literacy Act was enacted in 1997 by the Colorado general assembly in order to ensure that by third grade all students have the literacy skills essential for success in school and life. The Act calls for local districts to identify students who are reading below grade level and provide them with necessary reading interventions.	Three instruments were selected by the State School Board for local school districts to use to assess kindergarten reading readiness levels: PALS, DIBELS, & DRA-2	School districts report to the state annually the 3rd graders reading at or above grade level; students with individual literacy plans; and students who have increased literacy levels by two or more grades during the preceding year.
Colorado Department of Education (CDE): Results Matter	Also known as “Colorado’s Child and Family Outcomes System,” Results Matter is an early childhood outcomes assessment program that is designed to use child, family, and system outcomes data to inform early childhood practices and policy.	Early childhood education programs in Colorado that receive special education funding or Colorado Preschool and Kindergarten (CPKP) funds are required to collect program data using assessment tools approved through this system.	Data not currently available on website, however, they are collecting extensive information through this effort which may be available in aggregate from CDE. Data collection began at the local level in FY2007.
The Early Education Standards Assessment for Readiness Tool (ESTART)	Denver early childhood assessment tool that measures developmentally appropriate progress toward literacy, math, science and gross motor milestones	Denver only; 3-5 year olds.	Data available from Denver Early Childhood Council and Clayton Foundation.

Collaboration:

Some collaboration around kindergarten and early childhood assessment does exist, although it is not currently widespread. The Colorado Department of Education has prepared PowerPoint presentations and other communications to inform local school districts, early childhood councils

and local early childhood care and education providers of assessment requirements. The Department has also provided training in both of these areas. However, this communication is typically one way (top-down). More collaboration is necessary between school districts and providers around the use of these assessments. In addition, there are ill feelings between the State and Denver around the issue of early childhood assessments. Denver Public Schools developed its own tool, the ESTART, and is using this instrument in community-based centers in Denver; however, preschool and kindergarten programs operated through Denver Public Schools must use an assessment tool approved by the State and listed under the “Results Matter” system. These issues need to be addressed to effectively capture the data to track kindergarten readiness of Denver’s youngest students.

Potential Indicators:

Percentage of children who are at grade level on the DRA-2, DIBELS, or PAL by the end of Kindergarten

Percentage of children who score well on early childhood assessments who also score well on subsequent kindergarten assessments

Percentage of total preschool children who are assessed with Results Matter or ESTART assessments

Health

Medicaid/SCHIP

Public health insurance programs for children in Colorado include Medicaid and Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+). Currently, nearly 60,000 children from birth to age 18 in are enrolled in CHP+, which provides low-cost insurance to children whose families don’t qualify for Medicaid, but cannot afford private insurance. Other health-related insurance programs in Colorado include CHP+ Prenatal Care Program, CHP+ Dental Program, and Prenatal Plus. In addition, there are a number of non-profit

organizations in Colorado that work to ensure that all eligible children are enrolled in CHP+ and that Medicaid- and CHP+-eligible children receive comprehensive health care from a primary care provider. One of these groups estimates that 114,000 of Colorado's 180,000 uninsured children live in Denver.

Agency	Role	Scope	Data Collected
Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) Managed Care Network, State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) through the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (DHCPF)	CHP+ is health insurance coverage for low-income children (18 years of age and younger) and pregnant women (19 years of age and older). Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, is the CHP+ Managed Care Network for the State of Colorado.	Statewide; Prenatal - Age 18. As of December 2007, CHP+ is providing insurance for: 57,985 children and 1,496 pregnant women.	Health Care Providers (address level); Links to Colorado health data (Colorado Health Institute's Data At-A-Glance)
State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP): CHP+ Prenatal Care Program.	Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) Prenatal Care Program is a low-cost health insurance program for uninsured Colorado pregnant women. The CHP+ Prenatal Care Program helps pregnant women access proper medical care throughout their pregnancy.	The CHP+ Prenatal Care Program offers free health insurance to uninsured Colorado pregnant women who live in households that meet certain income requirements.	County Fact Sheet
State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP): Dental Care for Kids (CHP+ Dental Care)	Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) is a program designed by the State of Colorado to provide medical and dental coverage for uninsured Colorado children through age 18 whose families earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but cannot afford private insurance. Delta Dental of Colorado administers the CHP+ dental benefits portion of this program.	Delta Dental of Colorado provides dental benefits to all CHP+ members. These benefits include preventive and diagnostic services, basic restorative services, oral surgery and endodontics care.	Dental Care Provider Lists (address level by county)

Agency	Role	Scope	Data Collected
CO Department of Public Health and Environment: Prenatal Plus	<p>The goal of the Prenatal Plus program is to improve birth outcomes by reducing the prevalence of low birth weight infants among Medicaid-eligible women. A low birth weight infant weighs less than 5 lbs, 8 oz or 2500 grams.</p> <p>The Prenatal Plus program has been effective at increasing the number of women who stop smoking, gain an adequate amount of weight, and resolve psychosocial problems, and has decreased the number of infants who are born at low birth weight.</p>	<p>Prenatal Plus is a Medicaid-funded program which provides case management, nutrition, and psychosocial services to Medicaid-eligible pregnant women in Colorado who are assessed to be at high risk for delivering low birth weight infants. These services complement medical prenatal care by addressing the lifestyle, behavioral, and non-medical aspects of a woman's life likely to affect her pregnancy. In 2005, 2,354 women received Prenatal Plus services.</p>	<p>Program reports and lists of provider agencies by county (address level).</p>
Colorado Community Health Network's Covering Kids and Families Project (CKF)	<p>Colorado Covering Kids and Families (CKF) is a statewide project that works to ensure that all children and families eligible for Medicaid and the Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) are enrolled in the programs. CKF was created in 2002 as part of a national initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The project continues today thanks to the support of local foundations and the ongoing dedication of the CKF Coalition and our partners.</p>	<p>Colorado CKF is guided by a statewide coalition that includes more than 300 individuals from over 170 agencies and organizations. CKF organizes this unique coalition to work together to reduce Medicaid and CHP+ enrollment and re-enrollment barriers and to improve the administration of the programs.</p>	<p>List of Members; List of Colorado's Community, Migrant, School Based & Homeless Health Centers (address level)</p>

Agency	Role	Scope	Data Collected
State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP): Community Based Organization (CBO) Sites	CBO Sites are community health centers, family resource centers, schools, hospitals, public health departments, and county nursing services. Their familiarity and access to the community create a welcoming environment where families can work one-on-one with a trained CHP+ technician to have their questions and concerns addressed.	Community Based Organization (CBO) Sites are located throughout the State of Colorado to help families with applications and conduct outreach for CHP+ within their own communities to help promote and increase enrollment in CHP+.	List of CBO sites (address level)

Collaboration:

The Colorado Community Health Network’s Covering Kids and Families Project was created in 2002 with philanthropic support to facilitate collaboration around health insurance for Colorado’s children. The coalition is made up of advocates, state and local agencies, health care providers, school districts, Head Start representatives and Medicaid and CHP+ administrators. They meet at least monthly (more during the legislative session) and are a key part of collaboration in this sector.

Two other key collaborative state-level bodies working within the health domain include: 1) The 2010 All Kids Covered cross-organization group, whose primary focus is on improving access to health insurance; and 2) Colorado’s Medical Home Advisory, spearheaded by the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to improve the quality of health services for children.

Potential Indicators:

Percent of physicians that accept Medicaid and CHP+

Percent of eligible children enrolled in Medicaid and CHP+

Percent of CHP+ and Medicaid children who have a primary care physician

Immunizations and Health

For the purposes of this scan, The Piton Foundation has expanded this category from Immunizations and Lead Screenings to Immunizations and Health. Colorado has an extensive health system that addresses the needs of children and families that falls under this category. Most of these programs are housed in the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and include Women Infants and Children (WIC) and the Maternal and Child Health Department. These programs provide services such as immunizations and lead screenings to eligible women and children, and also collect data and distribute information to the community. In addition, there are non-profit organizations that work in this area to encourage child immunizations and provide technical assistance to health care providers on keeping children healthy. Others, such as the Colorado Children’s Healthcare Access Program, provide direct health care services to low income families with young children.

Agency	Role	Scope	Data Collected
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE): Maternal and Child Health (MCH)	Maternal and Child Health (MCH) is a department of CDPHE that administers several programs: Child and Adolescent Health and Nutrition; Children with Special Health Care Needs (HCP); and Women’s Health	CDPHE-MCH administers programs and is a repository for multiple datasets, planning documents, and reports.	Various datasets, including: Child health survey results from recent national and state surveys; Vital statistics; Local health department MCH planning documents for 2006-07; MCH Best Practices; MCH County Data Sets; County profiles

Agency	Role	Scope	Data Collected
Colorado Children's Immunization Coalition	The mission of the Colorado Children's Immunization Coalition (CCIC) is to ensure that Colorado children receive all recommended immunizations at appropriate ages and therefore, children are maximally protected against vaccine preventable disease.	The coalition has focused on implementing four strategic initiatives in five sites in ten Colorado counties including: Otero, Crowley and Bent Counties, El Paso County, Montezuma and La Plata County, Weld County, and the Aurora portion of Arapahoe and Adams Counties.	List of low cost clinics (address level); links to resources for providers and parents.
The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Lead Poisoning Prevention Program	The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Lead Poisoning Prevention Program offers resources related to childhood lead poisoning.	Related website links include a Lead Services Directory; a Lead Poisoning Prevention Program publication; and other resources.	The <i>Lead Services Directory</i> provides contact information about individuals and organizations that provide a variety of lead-based paint services in the State of Colorado. Available online, the directory is updated on a semi-annual basis by the CDPHE
Women Infants and Children (WIC) Colorado	<p>WIC is a nutrition program for: Pregnant women; Breastfeeding women (up to one year postpartum); Non-breastfeeding, postpartum women (up to 6 months postpartum); Infants; Children until the age of 5 years.</p> <p>The WIC Program provides: Nutrition education including breastfeeding support; Nutritious foods to supplement a person's regular diet; Screening and referral.</p>	The Colorado WIC Program currently serves approximately 89,461 women, infants and children in the State of Colorado. Of those WIC participants approximately 23,439 are women, 24,250 are infants and 41,772 are children between the ages of 1 and 5 years. Colorado WIC operates approximately 116 clinics throughout the state that provide WIC services.	<p>The WIC Program has been successful in improving the health of pregnant women, infants and children and in reducing health care costs. Various studies indicate that WIC has achieved the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pregnant women have fewer premature and low-birth-weight babies; are more likely to get prenatal care • Improved dietary intake by WIC participants • Reduced rates of iron deficiency anemia • Improved immunization rates • Higher breastfeeding rates • Decreased infant mortality

Agency	Role	Scope	Data Collected
Colorado Children’s Healthcare Access Program (CCHAP)	CCHAP is a non-profit organization devoted to ensuring that every child enrolled in Medicaid and the Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) receives comprehensive healthcare from a primary care provider—a “medical home.”	Targets the approximately 140,000 children in Colorado, either enrolled in or eligible for Medicaid and CHP+, who are unable to find a medical home. An 18-month pilot program was conducted with 7,000 children in seven pediatric practices in metro Denver during 2005–06. In 2007, CCHAP developed a demonstration program in 28 private pediatric and 7 family practices, with plans to further expand the program to all pediatric and family practices in Colorado in 2008 and 2009.	Child outcomes

Collaboration:

The Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant has given the state Maternal and Child Health Program (MCH) the opportunity to serve in a leadership capacity in the early childhood community and to be viewed by a wide array of early childhood partners as an invested key collaborator in supporting a comprehensive system. In addition, a healthy collaboration exists between CDPHE and Colorado Children’s Immunization via the Colorado Children’s Immunization Coalition.

Potential Indicators:

Number of low birth weight babies

Percent of two-year olds who have received immunizations

Infants born to high risk mothers

Percentage of children with elevated lead levels

Percentage of low income mothers who breastfeed

Percentage of eligible women and children receiving WIC

Social, Emotional and Mental Health

Within the early childhood and school readiness framework, mental health refers in large part to the healthy social and emotional development of young children. Children eligible for early childhood mental health services include those who have experienced abuse or neglect, as well as children who have severe behavioral issues that impact their ability to relate to other children and adults. Early childhood professionals also sometimes need support and technical assistance around how to help young children with social and emotional difficulties. In Colorado, mental health is considered one of four early childhood domains – along with the Family Support and Parent Education, Early Learning, and Health domains – that have already been explored in this scan. The Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) Division of Mental Health administers several mental programs and initiatives authorized and funded through the state legislature or private or federal grants. For the CDHS Early Childhood Programs and Initiatives, mental health programs are administered through Project Bloom, Kid Connects, and Early Childhood Mental Health Specialists.

Agency	Role	Scope	Data Collected
Colorado Department of Human Services, Early Childhood Programs and Initiatives: Project Bloom	Project BLOOM is funded from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), through the Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health Services and focuses primarily on young children from birth to five years old with serious emotional disturbances (SED) in El Paso, Fremont, and Mesa counties and the city of Aurora.	Operating in El Paso, Fremont, and Mesa counties and the city of Aurora. Birth-age 5.	Links to resources and national/CO data
Colorado Department of Human Services, Early Childhood Programs and Initiatives: Kid Connects	Kid Connects integrates mental health, primary health care and early education through mental health consultation, health care screenings and coordination of referrals and follow-through for young children in child care centers and family childcare homes.	Kid Connects provides services in child care centers and family childcare homes through the Pearl Project at the Mental Health Center of Denver and the Child Development Program at the Mental Health Center Serving Boulder & Broomfield Counties.	Various reports and Resources
Colorado Department of Human Services, Early Childhood Programs and Initiatives: Early Childhood Specialists	Places an early childhood specialist in each of the 17 CDHS mental health centers. The position creates a combination of direct services, consultative services to families and early care and education providers and cross systems program development.	The program serves primarily non-Medicaid children and families throughout Colorado. Staff trained in the unique developmental issues of young children and housed at the mental health centers can work with other community agencies to develop and sustain appropriate programming for the mental health needs of young children.	The 17 mental health centers have agreed to develop a set of common outcomes for this program as well as meet twice yearly.

Agency	Role	Scope	Data Collected
Mental Health Center of Denver: PEARL	The Mental Health Center of Denver's Child and Family Services is the leading area resource for comprehensive treatment for children ages 0-18 years old, including those with serious emotional disturbances (SED). Programs include community based child and family services, coordinating care with social services, health and school agencies, the early childhood PEARL project, and intervention outpatient services.	Services available to programs in the City and County of Denver. The PEARL Program is an outcomes-based prevention program that provides on site clinical and educational resources to assist children and families enrolled in early care and educational settings, including Head Start programs.	Aggregate client demographics, types and amounts of services provided.
Blue Ribbon Policy Council for Early Childhood Mental Health	The Blue Ribbon Policy Council focuses on early childhood mental health serving as the policy body for Harambe, KID CONNECTS and Project BLOOM. The council is comprised of families, legislators, state agency representatives, advocacy groups, statewide early childhood and mental health organizations and coalitions and university personnel.	The Blue Ribbon Policy Council for Early Childhood Mental Health is currently leading a strategic planning process to develop Colorado's Strategic Plan for Early Childhood Mental Health. Their goal is to present a functional draft to numerous stakeholders to obtain a solid commitment across the state to the strategies and outcomes identified in the Plan.	Links to resources and national/Colorado data

Agency	Role	Scope	Data Collected
Incredible Years: Invest in Kids (Colorado)	A comprehensive set of curricula designed to promote social competence and prevent, reduce, and treat aggression and related conduct problems in babies, toddlers, young children, and school-aged children. A national model, the program is supported in Colorado through Invest in Kids, a nonprofit organization that partners with communities to improve the health and well-being of Colorado's children (prenatal to age 5), particularly those from low-income families, through advancing programs that work.	Incredible Years has been implemented in several elementary public school settings in Denver and throughout the state.	Child outcomes; One of eleven national model "Blueprint" programs by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (2000); Exemplary Prevention Program - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention; Model Program and listed in the National Registry of Effective Prevention Programs (NREPP) - Department of Health & Human Services.

Collaboration:

Currently in Colorado, The Blue Ribbon Policy Council for Early Childhood Mental Health serves as the primary collaborative leader in the mental health domain of the early childhood system. This Council includes early childhood mental health professionals, family advocates, legislators, researchers, funders and policy specialists. Their goal is to impact public policy related to early childhood mental health. In Denver, efforts are also being made to involve the mental health domain more effectively in the early childhood community. The Denver Early Childhood Council is developing a strategic plan for early childhood mental health. Currently, the inclusion of mental health services in other parts of the early childhood delivery system is case by case and largely dependent upon project-specific grants.

Potential Indicators:

Number of mental health referrals from early childhood care and education providers

Number of early childhood teachers trained on dealing with social/emotional issues

Percentage of child care centers that have access to early childhood mental health programs for children and families

Percentage of parents with poor mental health

Cross Domain

At the state level, The Colorado Children's Campaign serves as a bi-partisan voice for children from the state capitol to communities across the state, focusing on expanding access to quality healthcare, early childhood experiences and K-12 education. Colorado also has the Early Childhood State Systems Team (ECSST), a cross-agency, cross-domain state-level group comprised of public and private partners that developed a vision for a comprehensive early childhood system for children birth to eight. This system encompasses services across all four domains: health, mental health, early learning, and family support and parent education. The ECSST developed a strategic plan for realizing this vision and developed a number of cross-systems tools, resources, and white papers. In addition, Colorado recently developed the Early Childhood Colorado Framework, which provides a common framework for public and private, state and local partners to view the early childhood system in Colorado. This framework outlines the efforts needed by all partners to make positive changes in the lives of young children and their families. Colorado also has a system of local early childhood councils in place that includes 31 local councils operating across the state. These councils involve members from all four domains and are the venue in each community for active collaboration and resource sharing on behalf of young children.

At the city level, The Denver Mayor’s Office for Education and Children operates several advocacy and funding programs focused on early childhood efforts serving families living in the city and county of Denver.

Agency	Role	Scope	Data Collected
The Colorado Office of Professional Development	Launched in 2003, this office is the statewide entity responsible for improving the quality of services, supports and education for young children and their families by enhancing the knowledge, skills and professional advancement of early childhood professionals using an integrated and comprehensive system of professional and workforce development.	Provides links to professional organizations and helpful websites nationwide, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Organizations Directory • Licensing and Quality Rating Resources • Educational Opportunities • Colorado Early Childhood Professional Credential • Early Childhood Social/Emotional Professional Development Resources 	Professional development plans, resources, and tools.
Denver Mayor’s Office for Education and Children (MOEC)	The Denver Mayor's Office for Education and Children advocates for the children, youth, and families of Denver and serves as the City's liaison to Denver Public Schools. It operates several advocacy and funding programs focused on early childhood including Invest in Success; 5by5; and the Quality Improvement Fund.	Invest in Success focuses on early childhood planning and advocacy, while 5by5 collaborates with major cultural venues in the city to give families with children birth to 5 years old opportunities to experience art, science, history, zoo and other resources for their young children. The Quality Improvement Fund uses unexpended CCCAP dollars to improve the training, equipment, facilities and Qualistar ratings of Denver's early childhood care and education providers. The focus of these programs is on children birth-5 years within the City and County of Denver.	Provider lists and Qualistar ratings; child and family demographic data.

Agency	Role	Scope	Data Collected
Colorado Department of Education: Colorado Early Childhood Councils	Early Childhood Councils have become a vital component in the process of developing an Early Childhood system for the State of Colorado. In addition to early care and education, their focus includes: school readiness, health care, mental health, and family support. Initially called Consolidated Child Care Pilots, they are now called Early Childhood Councils.	There are 31 Early Childhood Councils in 56 of Colorado's 64 counties. The EC Councils are community-based collaboratives working to build a comprehensive early childhood system that connects children, families, and resources to quality services in education, health, mental health and family support. In the metro area, early childhood councils exist in Denver, Arapahoe, Adams and Jefferson counties.	Directory of Councils (address level) and Funding Organizations and <i>Pilots at a Glance: Reporting on the Community Consolidated Child Care Pilot Program</i> ; Community information; early childhood strategic plans, spending data and reports of local council achievements are all collected by CDE.
Colorado Children's Campaign (CCC)	The Colorado Children's Campaign was established in 1985 as a statewide nonprofit organization. Since then, CCC has been the leading bi-partisan voice for children from the state capitol to communities across the state, focusing on expanding access to quality healthcare, early childhood experiences, K-12 education, and youth and state budget issues.	Serve children and children's groups throughout Colorado by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representing the needs of children at the state capitol • Building public awareness about key issues • Gathering and analyzing data to support local needs and coordinate a statewide grassroots advocacy network to influence legislative decisions • Developing coalitions of diverse groups and help them create a shared vision 	Serves as a resource for state and local data; Various publications; <i>Kids Count in Colorado!</i> , a data initiative designed to assess the well-being of Colorado's children (presents user-friendly state and county data).

Agency	Role	Scope	Data Collected
The Every Child Matters Education Fund (ECMEF)	ECMEF is a 501(c)(3) organization focused on making the needs of children and youth a national political priority and promoting the adoption of smart policies for children, youth, and families—including stopping child abuse, helping working families with child care, expanding pre-school education and after-school programs, and ensuring that children receive good health care. ECMEF employs a multi-pronged, non-partisan approach for raising the visibility of children and youth issues in elections.	ECMEF is a national organization with a state office in Denver. The group is currently running a campaign to highlight children and youth issues in the lead-up to the presidential primaries and caucuses in early 2008. By drawing attention to children and youth issues during the earliest stages of the presidential campaigns, ECMEF hopes to make children and youth issues a major theme of the 2008 election season.	Various publications: <i>Children's Action Agenda</i> , a legislative agenda that provides a guiding framework for the 2008 Colorado State legislative session to benefit Colorado's children; Where Colorado children rank compared to other states on various measures of child well-being.

Collaboration:

Many of the cross domain efforts in Colorado are aimed at increasing the level of collaboration among early childhood stakeholders. Colorado early childhood advocates and the public agencies that administer programs on behalf of infants, toddlers and preschool children recognize the importance of working together to best serve families and children. Strong efforts are being made to bring early childhood interests in Colorado to the same table to solve problems, effectively utilize resources and provide needed services to children and families. For example, the Office of the Lt. Governor pulled together some key early childhood systems initiatives to support a more aligned approach. These include the Head Start State Collaboration Office, the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant, and the Early Childhood Councils Advisory Team.

Potential Indicators:

Number of Early Childhood Councils with all four domains represented on their boards

Funding resources leveraged for early childhood initiatives

Percentage of residents who are aware of the importance of early childhood programs to school readiness

Conclusion

Colorado's early childhood system is complex and multi-dimensional. It encompasses programs within early learning, family services and parent education, health, and social, emotional and mental health. Included within these domains are foster care and child welfare systems, as well as public health insurance and a variety of preschool subsidy and tuition programs. Consistent throughout the system is a clear recognition that collaboration is absolutely necessary in order to ensure that children in Colorado are healthy and ready to succeed in kindergarten, and that they subsequently succeed in the early grades of school.

There are collaborative bodies focused on improving and strengthening specific domains, such as the Early Childhood Summit, Medical Home Advisory Group, and P-3 Subcommittee. There are also bodies identifying connections across domains or supporting the cross-domain connections and integration, including the Early Childhood State Systems Team and the Early Childhood Councils. These joint efforts and partnerships are still in their infancy, and while some collaboration has begun, many domains still struggle just to achieve within-domain collaboration.

More needs to be done to facilitate coordination and partnerships and to eliminate unnecessary duplication. This scan provides an important first step toward understanding the system that currently exists and communicating the strengths and challenges within and across domains to the

Colorado and national community. The scan also provides some early sense of data that can be collected and analyzed to assess system successes and weaknesses.

Appendix A

Core Indicators and Data Elements for School Readiness

Ready Families

Data Description	Source of Data	Data Collected
Mother's education level*	Vital Statistics records	Record level data
Births to teens*	Vital Statistics records	Record level data
Child abuse and neglect*	Child Welfare Records	Neighborhood level data
Children in foster care*	Child Welfare Records	Neighborhood level data
Number of children by age	2000 Census	Census Block Group level
Households with young children	2000 Census	Census Block Group level
Young children and parental work status	2000 Census	Census Block Group level
Poverty and income status of children	2000 Census	Census Block Group level
Linguistically isolated households	2000 Census	Census Block Group level
Births to adolescent girls/low-educated mothers	Vital Records	Record level data
Children with an incarcerated parent	Department of Corrections records	

Ready Early Childhood Services

Data Description	Source of Data	Data Collected
Children enrolled in an early education program*	Resource and referral data; enrollment data from schools	Record level data from Denver, Aurora, and Mapleton school districts; enrollment by school for other districts (statewide).
Early education teacher qualifications*	Child care data (Qualistar; Community College of Denver Office of Professional Development)	
Accredited child care centers*	Qualistar; 2-1-1 Colorado	Address level data
Accredited family child care homes*	Qualistar; 2-1-1 Colorado	Address level data
Access to child care subsidies*	Dept. of Human Services, Child Care Assistance Program; Aspen Family Services	

Pre-school data	Head Start, Part B of IDEA, state and school district data, Census data	Preschool enrollment in public schools, by school; Record level preschool enrollment data (Denver, Aurora, & Mapleton school districts; IDEA reports; 2000 Census data
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Ready Health Services

Data Description	Source of Data	Data Collected
Health Insurance*	County data	
Low birthweight infants*	Vital Statistics records	Record level data
Access to prenatal care*	Vital Statistics records	Record level data
Immunizations*	CO Dept. of Public Health and Environment	
Smoking/drinking during pregnancy	Vital Statistics records	Record level data
Mother's education, age, etc.	Vital Statistics records	Record level data
Health care coverage and use	Medicaid, SCHIP, and EPSDT data	Provider lists (address level data)
Elevated blood lead levels	Department of Public Health	
Early intervention participation	State department administering Part C	

Ready Schools

Data Description	Source of Data	Data Collected
Class Size*	CO Dept. of Education	Teacher/student ratios by school by grade
Kindergarten assessment data	School district records	DRA/EDL by school (Denver)
Elementary grade test scores*	School district records, NCLB report	CSAP Scores by school by grade; SAR rating
Elementary attendance experiences	School district records	Attendance data by school by grade (statewide)
Other elementary school activities	School district records and individual school surveys	

Ready Communities

Data Description	Source of Data	Data Collected
Young children in poverty*	2000 Census	Census Block Group level
Supports for families with Infants and toddlers*	Early Head Start Enrollment	
Crime data	Police records	Crime data by census tract for Denver/ neighborhood level
Lead poisoning*	CO Dept. of Public Health and Environment	
Parent and community program information	Various administrative sources, 2-1-1	

Ready Children

Data Description	Source of Data	Data Collected
Physical Well-Being and Motor Development*	Results Matter	
Social and Emotional Development*	Mental Health Awareness, CO; Project Bloom; Local mental health organizations (PEARL-Denver)	
Approaches to learning*	Child Find; School districts, CO Dept. of Education	
Language Development*	CO Dept. of Education; Results Matter; ESTART (Denver)	
Cognition and General Knowledge*	CO Dept. of Education; Results Matter; ESTART (Denver)	

Notes:

***Core Indicator of School Readiness**

Gray shading indicates where data has not been collected.