

- Early learning programs will be able to coordinate with one another so that they can best support children and families, especially those most vulnerable. With the SCELE, questions about what programs families are using and at what dosage may be answered.
- Early learning programs know what works for children, and the SCELE will offer a data point for early learning programs to support them as they serve children and families.
- Early learning programs will learn more about their programs to improve supports for children and families.

Message 2. The South Carolina Early Learning Extension will allow for the examination of child outcomes by connecting early learning data with later academic data.

- Data from early learning programs have not been regularly connected with later outcome data, such as educational outcomes. The linking of data can help South Carolina see how children are doing over time.
- With the SCELE, South Carolina partners can understand what happens to children who participate in early learning programs when they enter the school system, with a particular focus on kindergarten. By connecting data across early learning programs and with the K-12 system, the SCELE allows programs to have access to more data about children in their programs, including what the outcomes, experiences, or longitudinal trajectories are for children participating in their programs.
- SCELE programs can use these data for program improvement and adjust their programs to best serve children and families, especially to tailor services.

Message 3. The South Carolina Early Learning Extension will ensure the protection of data on children and families.

- The data on children and families in the SCELE are data already collected by the individual programs to support the program's functioning (i.e., administrative data). Additional data are not being collected from children and families for the SCELE.
- Data that can identify individual children or families will not be made public.
- Early learning programs will maintain ownership of their data shared in the SCELE and can work with families to ensure data are protected.
- Families have the option to not share identifiable data with the SCELE when they participate in programs.

Message 4. A Data Governance Workgroup is responsible for creating policies and procedures for how data in the South Carolina Early Learning Extension is shared and used.

- The Data Governance Workgroup members will establish policies and procedures that will protect the data of children and families
- The Data Governance Workgroup is comprised of individuals from organizations that share data in the SCELE.
- The Data Governance Workgroup is committed to work together, not against each other to ensure that data are protected.
- The Data Governance Workgroup will need sustained commitment from state leaders, programs, and families to ensure the success of the SCELE.
- The Early Childhood Advisory Council serves as a neutral entity overseeing the work of the Data Governance Workgroup.