Findings from the QRIS Assessment Project

November 16, 2011

**Presentation at the Joint Meeting of
the State and Territory CCDF Administrators and the Child Care
Policy Research Consortium**

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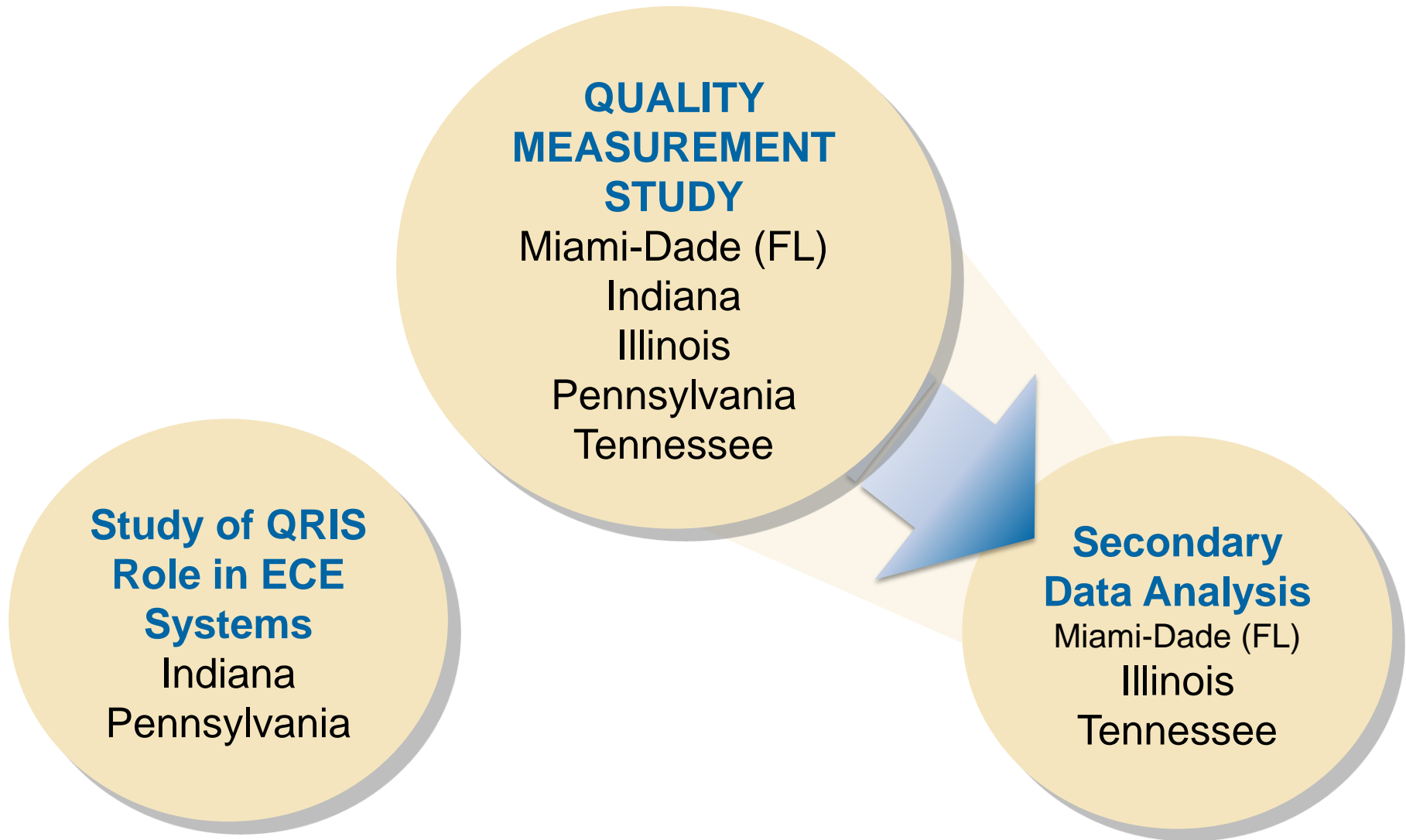# Project Overview

QRIS Assessment: Purpose

- **To address states' needs for information regarding both the implementation and evaluation of the various approaches to QRIS**

- **To gather information and develop resources that can build capacity for QRIS monitoring and evaluation**

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QRIS Assessment: Tasks and Goals

- **Compendium of QRIS:**
  - Catalog comprehensive and consistent information on QRIS key elements

- **QRIS Evaluation Toolkit:**
  - Produce resources for monitoring and evaluation

- **Two In-Depth Studies:**
  - Gather and synthesize in-depth information on quality measurement (5 QRIS) and systems-building (2 QRIS)

- **Secondary Data Analysis:**
  - Analyze data to aggregate findings about quality measurement across QRIS

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Study Components & Participating QRISs

QUALITY MEASUREMENT STUDY
Miami-Dade (FL)
Indiana
Illinois
Pennsylvania
Tennessee

Study of QRIS Role in ECE Systems
Indiana
Pennsylvania

Secondary Data Analysis
Miami-Dade (FL)
Illinois
Tennessee

In-Depth Study of QRIS
in ECE System Integration

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Purpose of Study

- **Define the approaches in use by QRIS to connect with other ECE programs through eight system components**
    1. Governance and infrastructure
    2. Provider and program engagement
    3. Financing
    4. Quality assurance
    5. Early learning standards
    6. Professional development
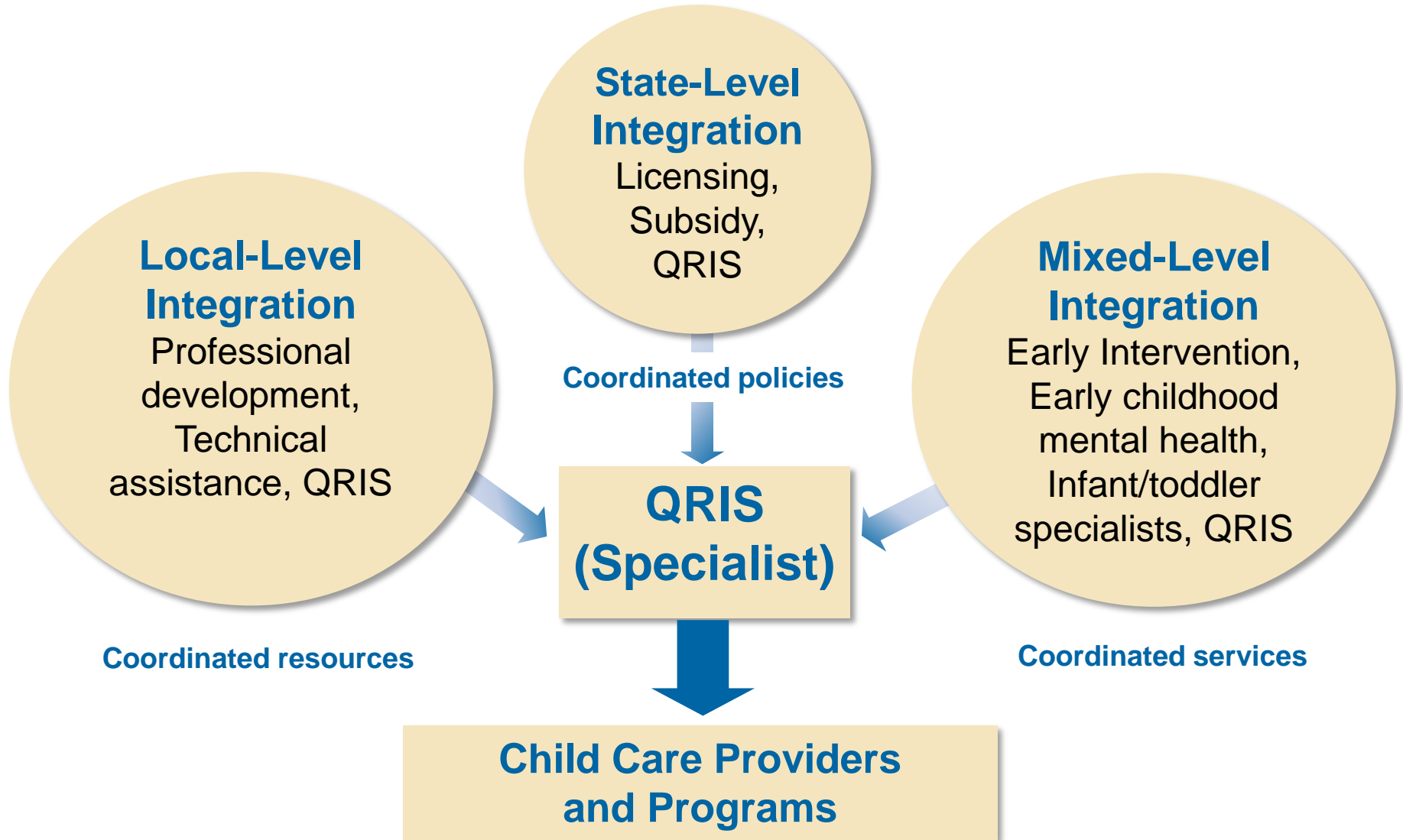   7. Dissemination of information
    8. Accountability

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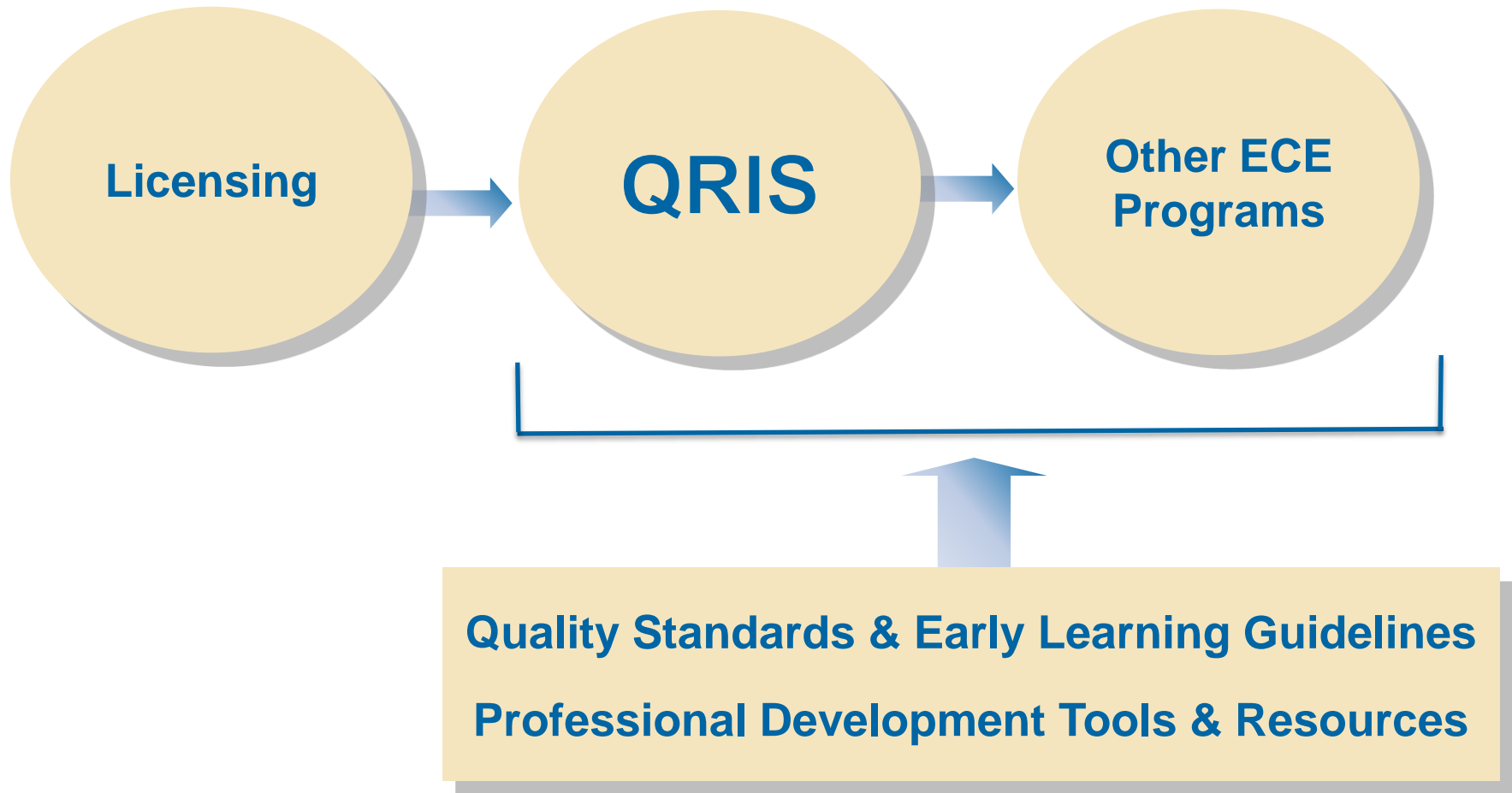
Approaches to Integration

- **Embed governance, administrative, and service structures:**
  - **QRIS as a "one-stop shop" for child care providers**

- **Cross-program accountability:**
  - **Develop or make use of common tools and resources that support PD and QI across programs**

- **Reciprocal responsibility:**
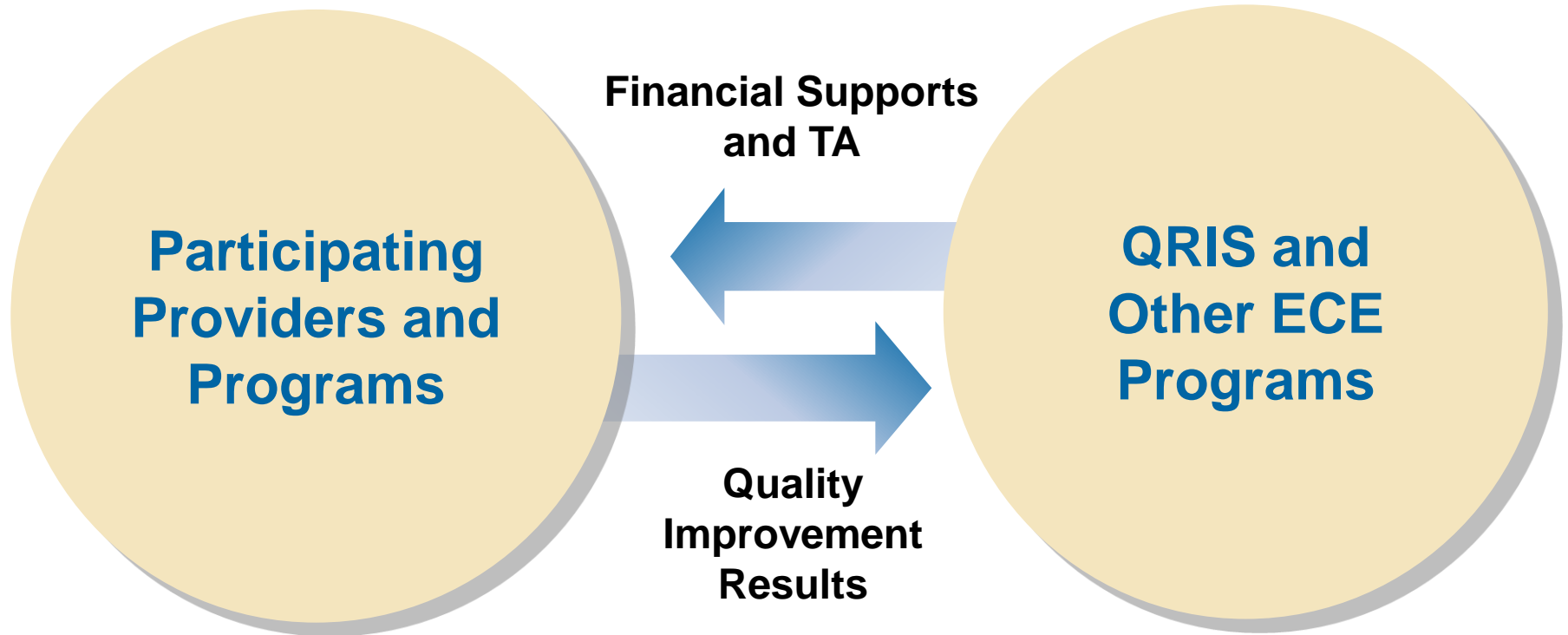 - **Link funding sources and incentives to achieve multiple program goals**

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Administrative and Service Structure Integration: QRIS as "One-Stop Shop"

State-Level Integration
Licensing, Subsidy, QRIS

Local-Level Integration
Professional development, Technical assistance, QRIS

Mixed-Level Integration
Early Intervention, Early childhood mental health, Infant/toddler specialists, QRIS

Coordinated policies

Coordinated resources

Coordinated services

QRIS (Specialist)

Child Care Providers and Programs

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Approaches to Integration: Cross-Program Accountability

Licensing → **QRIS** → **Other ECE Programs**

Quality Standards & Early Learning Guidelines

Professional Development Tools & Resources

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Approaches to Integration: Reciprocal Responsibility

Key Ingredients for Integration

- **Openness to change**
  - **Interconnectedness means a change in one area or program requires change throughout system**

- **Seek opportunities and continue to widen the circle**
  - **Keep asking how a policy or initiative in one program can be incorporated into others**

Challenges to Integration

- **No specific prescription**
  - Differences in context necessitate differences in details

- **Vision, planning, and patience**
  - Adopting long-term strategy (and refine along the way)
  - Hard to estimate (and never enough) money, staff, or time needed
  - Timing when politics and/or personalities align

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Practical Lessons

- **Jump in anywhere**
  - **Incremental change is better than no change**

- **Use efficiencies to make a case for integration**
  - **Resources (tools and money)**
  - **Data collection**

- **Use the eight system components as a planning and analytic tool**
  - **Assess current stage of implementation, where you want to be, and how to get there**

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