

# Governance of Early Childhood Systems in Illinois

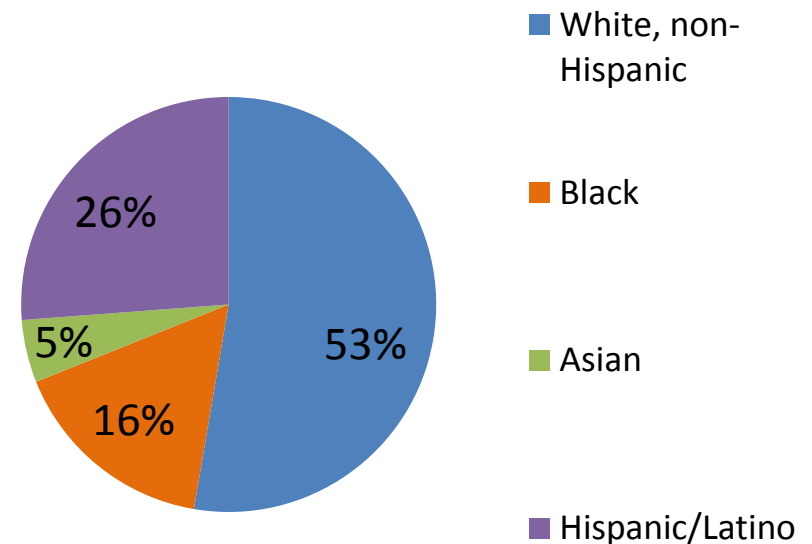


**Governor's Office of  
Early Childhood Development**  
Illinois Early Learning Council

# Our demographic context

- Approximately 1,000,000 children under Kindergarten age
- About 43% are in Low-Income Families
  - 21% in poverty
- 68% of children live in Chicago Metro area
  - Including 22% in Chicago

**Race/Ethnicity of children under age 5**



# Our Government Structure

- Few intermediary structures between state and local service providers
  - Counties are not a conduit for most social services
- Strong local control tradition in schools
  - 868 school districts; most unrelated to county or municipal borders
  - Regional offices of education have few functions

# Who manages what at state level?

- Department of Human Services:
  - Child Care Assistance
  - Early Intervention
  - Some Home Visiting programs
- Department of Children & Family Services:
  - Day Care Licensing
  - Child Welfare
- Illinois State Board of Education
  - Preschool for All
  - Prevention Initiative (0-3 home visiting & center-based services)
  - Preschool Special Education

# Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development

- Created in 2010 to coordinate state policy
- Works with Interagency Team to develop and implement integrated policy for early childhood
- Works with public/private Early Learning Council, which sets vision for state
- Implements the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge Grant and MIECHV Grant

# State's Approach to Assessment

- Child screening & assessment required:
  - As term in Preschool for All and Prevention Initiative grants
  - As part of higher levels of ExceleRate Illinois (QRIS)
- Standards-based approach
  - No specific tools required
  - Characteristics of acceptable tool specified
  - New this year—will be developing approved list and criteria for approval

# Chicago's Approach

- Chicago Public Schools is under strong Mayoral control
- City is the Head Start “super-grantee” for almost all Chicago programs
- Ability to dictate use of specific tools
- Committee completed review and chose Teaching Strategies GOLD as child assessment tool and CLASS as classroom assessment tool
- Single contract with TS allows aggregation of data across programs and agencies