

ACF	Administration for Children and Families – the division of the Department of Health and Human Services in which the Office of Child Care and the Office of Head Start are housed.
AEM	Applied Engineering Management is a technical assistance provider that has been providing support to Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grantees and more recently is supporting the technology and infrastructure for the Preschool Development and Expansion Grant states.
CCDF/CCDBG	The Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) is authorized under the federal law known as the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG).
CCSSO	Council of Chief State School Officers, the national organization that represents all of the state superintendents of public instruction. Because titles vary across states from commissioner of education to director state education agency, the organization uses a generic title. Tom Schultz is director of early learning at CCSSO and is a partner in CEELO.
CEELO	Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes is one of 22 Comprehensive Technical assistance centers funded through the US Department of Education. The National Institute for Early Education Research, Education Development Center, the Council of Chief State School Officers, and the National Association of Early Childhood Specialists in State Departments of Education are the partners offering TA through CEELO.
CLASS	Classroom Assessment Scoring System is a classroom assessment tool used to evaluate the quality of teachers’ interactions with children.
CPQ&R	Cost of Preschool Quality and Revenue Tool is a tool developed by NIEER to help states and communities identify the costs of high-quality preschool and available revenue streams
DECA	Devereux Early Childhood Assessment is a child assessment of young children’s development that can be used to screen for disabilities.
DIAL	Developmental Indicators for the Assessment of Learning is a child level assessment of young children’s development.
DHHS	US Department of Health and Human Services
DIBELS	Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills—an assessment of young children’s early literacy skills.
DRA	Developmental Reading Assessment – an assessment of young children’s reading abilities.
DRDP	Desired Results Developmental Profile – a portfolio assessment developed by the state of California to assess children’s developmental progress.
ED	The US Department of Education. (DOE is typically used to refer to the US Department of Energy.)
ECE	Early care and education –the term used by many states as the broad umbrella term for programs that include child care, Head Start and preschool. Some states use the term EEC – early education and care.
ECERS-R or ECERS-3	Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale – Revised edition or the more recent is referred to as 3. This assesses global classroom quality of early childhood centers.
EDC	Education Development Center, Inc. A large non-profit organization that is one of the partners in CEELO. EDC is a large organization that has worked with many Northeast states as a contractor. In that role, EDC has provided support with curriculum and instruction, conducted research and provided technical assistance
ERS	Environmental Rating Scales used to assess the global quality of early care and education classrooms. ERS include the ECERS, FCCRS, ITERS, and SACERS.
ESSA	The reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act is now called the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), formerly known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB).
FPL	Federal poverty level – is a threshold established by the Office of Management and Budget for determining eligibility for many programs. The threshold takes into account annual household income as well as family size.

Acronyms Frequently Used in Early Care and Education

KEA	Kindergarten Entry Assessment – a tool used to assess young children’s readiness for Kindergarten. Some states use Kindergarten Entry Inventory (KEI) or Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) instead of KEA.
NAECS-SDE	National Association of Early Childhood Specialists in State Departments of Education is the organization that represents the managers in state education agencies who oversee early learning initiatives. In some states, the state specialist is at a higher level (such as in Maryland) and in other states the person oversees early childhood special education and multiple other programs and is at a mid-level.
NAEYC	National Association for the Education of Young Children.
NIEER	National Institute for Early Education Research is a research organization within Rutgers University. Steve Barnett is the director of NIEER. NIEER is the prime contractor for CEELO.
OCC	Office of Child Care is the office within the Department of Health and Human Services that oversees the implementation of CCDBG.
OEL	Office of Early Learning –the office within the US Department of Education (ED) that oversees early learning initiatives supported by ED.
OHS	Office of Head Start—the federal office within the Department of Health and Human Services that oversees the federally funded Head Start program.
PALS	Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening, an assessment tool that measures young children’s early literacy skills.
PDG	Preschool Development and Expansion Grants are the federal funding opportunity that 18 states have won that is designed to support high-quality preschool for low-income four year olds (below 200% of poverty).
PDG-B5	Preschool Development and Expansion Grants for Birth to Five are federal funding awarded to 46 grantees to focus on aligning early childhood systems.
PEG	Some states use the acronym PEG to refer to the Preschool Development Expansion Grants are the federal funding opportunity that 18 states have won that is designed to support high-quality preschool for low-income four year olds (below 200% of poverty).
PPVT	Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test – a measure of receptive vocabulary for individuals from about two years, nine months through the elderly.
QRIS	Quality Rating and Improvement Systems are designed to rate the quality of early care and education programs. Initially, these were called QRS but in recent years the focus has been on quality improvement. Some states use the term T-QRIS to refer to tiered reimbursements that are provided through the system.
REL-NIE	Regional Education Lab for the Northeast and Islands is funded through the US Department of Education Institute for Education Sciences and provides supports to state education agencies around a range of preK-12 issues including early learning.
RMC	RMC Research is the organization that leads the Northeast Comprehensive Center, the federally funded technical assistance center that supports State Education Agencies.
RTT-ELC	Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant is a US Department of Education funded initiative to support a range of infrastructure and quality improvement activities to enhance the capacity of states to provide high-quality early learning services.
SCASS	State Collaborative on Assessment and Student Standards. Some representatives have been working with Tom Schultz through the SCASS on early childhood. The consortia are comprised of states that have a vested interest in supporting work around a particular content area. The early childhood SCASS includes representatives from many of the states that are in the sample.
SACQ	The State Administrative Cost of Quality Tool is a tool developed by NIEER to help states identify the administrative costs associated with supporting high-quality preschool
TA	Technical Assistance. The term T/TA refers to training and technical assistance.
WSS	Work Sampling System – a portfolio-based assessment designed to assess the domains of young children’s development.