

Information Technology Capital Investment Program  
Project Status Report

---

**To:** Information Technology Strategy and Investment Committee  
John Vittner, Office of Policy and Management

**From:** Jennifer Johnson, Director of Quality Improvement OEC

**Email:** jenn.m.johnson@ct.gov

**Agency:** Office of Early Childhood

**Project:** Office of Early Childhood - ECIS

**Project Manager:** Jennifer Johnson, Director Quality Improvement

**Reporting Period:** Project Inception through 06/30/2018

**Total Funds Requested:** \$6,000,000

**Total Funds Allotted to Agency:** \$6,000,000

**Accumulative Total Capital Fund Expenditures to Date:** \$5,161,942

**Brief Project Description/Summary:**

The Early Childhood Information System includes two components: A Transactional System and Data Warehouse across four (4) program areas (Birth to Three, Workforce Registry, Early Care and Education, and Home Visiting). The transactional component uses state of the art software and development tools for building new systems. All data will be housed in the DAS BEST data center for security. The second component includes a data warehouse which will allow integration across the program areas and with other agencies. OEC staff and providers will be able to input and view data. Dashboards will present a quick and current assessment of pertinent information for the various programs. The data warehouse will include both aggregate data for external users and record level data analysis to internal data users adhering to FERPA and HIPPA regulations. Lastly, QRIS system will be developed to track early care and education programs which may be a separate application interfacing with ECIS.

**Summary of Progress Achieved to Date:**

The transactional component known as the Early Childhood Education (ECE) has been running successfully in production since February 2016. We continue to work through minor production issues with our users to answer their questions/concerns. A complex ECE Batch Upload application has been built to allow large school districts to enter bulk child data from their various systems into ECE. It provides for online edit capabilities on individual records, similar to ECE, for enrolling children, searching or creating SASIDs. An updated ECE module has been developed that provides greater reporting capabilities and a smoother user experience based on user feedback and internal testing. This has been deployed and user feedback has been very positive. Statistical reports are another module being built for ECE. These statistical reports will allow OEC Staff and Agency Staff the ability to gain insights into enrollment data.

The Home Visiting Project is designed to capture demographics, education, income, health, household information, screenings, and follow up referrals for families and children up to eight years old. The project has been broken into three deliverables. The first deliverable includes Child, Family, and Caregiver information, incorporating historical MIECHV data (from vendor) case management and the Summary Table Report. This phase will be delivered in early June 2017. Tentative plans are for Release 2 to be completed by the end of August 2017 and Release 3 for December 2017. Release 2 was moved into production in September of 2017, this release included Federal reporting (Forms 1, 2, and 4). Release 3 is scheduled for 2/23/2018 and includes new input fields and reports to support the new Rate Card feature. Release 3 will also see minor adjustments to the user experience based on user feedback. Release 4 is scheduled for a 4/1/2018 release date that will have batch upload functionality to support data input from various external systems. Release 5 contains alerts, internal reports and re-design of some screens; based on early user feedback.

Matching Engine Project: Data from the Connecticut e-License database will be extracted, examined, and new or changed license information will be automatically updated in the OEC Early Childhood Professional Registry with changes passed back to the CCEI Early Childhood Professional Registry (current vendor). NAEYC accreditation program renewals will be automatically updated in the OEC Early Childhood Professional Registry and passed back to the CCEI Early Childhood Professional Registry (current vendor). Notification will be provided to the OEC staff of new accredited or revoked/lapsed programs that need further examination and confirmation. The project is in production, but additional work is necessary to finalize integration with other internal systems. This will be on-going work as we bring into the ECIS portal other systems.

OEC Data Warehouse: Initial work has begun on this project. Infrastructure has been put into place to support the various functions of Master Data Management. Development of the project is expected to begin in July. Initial discovery of internal and external data sources has begun. The OEC's Data Warehouse will bring all of the existing OEC application data together and planned new components' data to service internal and external needs of the agency. We will structure our data to conform to the Common Educational Data Standards (CEDS) in the warehouse. This project has been slowed due to changing priorities with the ECE and Home Visiting applications.

OEC Portal: Work on an OEC portal that will manage user roles/permissions, modules, agencies, and user requests has started. User Acceptance Testing on currently developed pieces has been completed and discussions of next steps are under way. Integration of the Matching Engine into the portal has been completed and tested. Additional functionality has been requested and will be delivered in September 2018. Integration into SIM/SAM will begin in August 2018.

The Child Attendance Project will be started earlier than initially planned (was to begin mid-January 2018). The project is expected to span at least four months once requirements have been finalized. An attendance module is being built to enhance the ECE and Home Visiting applications that will provide the ability to accurately track enrollment and mobility down to the agency and room children are receiving services. This module is anticipated to go live by November 2018.

**Issues and Risks:**

OEC continues to work towards total separation from SDE; mostly with the assistance of DAS-BEST. Software, hardware and support issues are being worked out.

Improvements have been made in getting work completed over the last year. However, a great deal of needed projects are in the works over the next year which will place a high demand on business participation in projects while performing their current jobs. Understanding the need to define what the business wants and getting that down on paper will be key to the IT Team meeting its goals. It is difficult to gather requirements while the business staff perform their daily activities. It is more of a learning experience for all concerned as overall priorities are established.

New Virtual Machines have been built that will provide a new Application Hosting environment. Work has begun to migrate off the existing environment. We anticipate completing this move for all ECIS modules and applications by November 2018.

**Next Steps & Project Milestones:**

1. OEC Data Warehouse: This project is expected to begin in July. This project is scheduled to be completed by December 2018.
2. Home Visiting-Tentative plans are Release 5 contains alerts, internal reports and re-design of some screens; based on early user feedback.
3. The Child Attendance Project is expected to span at least four months once requirements have been finalized. This module is anticipated to go live by November 2018.
4. OEC Portal: Additional functionality has been requested and will be delivered in September 2018. Integration into SIM/SAM will begin in August 2018.