Early Start CT
Data Submission and Reporting

June 25 & 26, 2025

Office of Early Childhood

Agenda

- Introduction

- Early Start CT Overview

- Where We Are

- General Policies

  - Data & Reporting: ECE Reporter

- Next Steps

- Questions?

Please put questions in the **Q&A box** and use the **Chat** feature for conversation with participants and hosts.

Goals for Today's Session
1) Have a clear understanding of data and reporting with ECE Reporter for Early Start CT
2) Know how to access and use available resources related to ECE Reporter

What is Early Start CT?

Early Start CT is the new state funding stream that combines the current School Readiness grants, Child Day Care Contracts, and State Head Start supplemental grants; it goes into effect **July 1, 2025**

Current State Funding Streams

- School Readiness grants
- Child Day Care contracts
- State Head Start supplemental grants
- Smart Start

July 1, 2025 →

Future State Funding Streams

- Early Start CT
- Smart Start
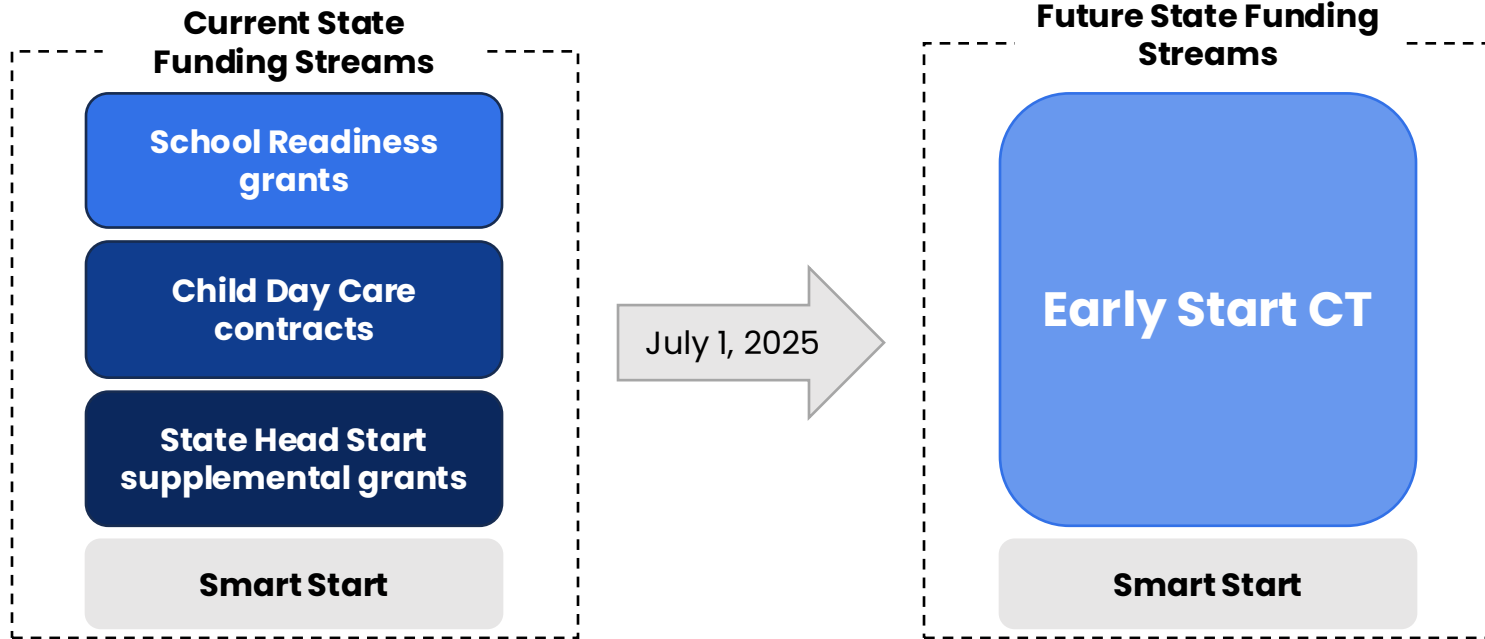
Early Start CT Goals

Empower families and amplify parent voice to better meet the needs of Connecticut children.

Strengthen system collaboration and a shared vision to build lasting partnerships between community stakeholders.

Improve equitable access to affordable, high-quality care and early childhood services and supports that meet a range of family needs.
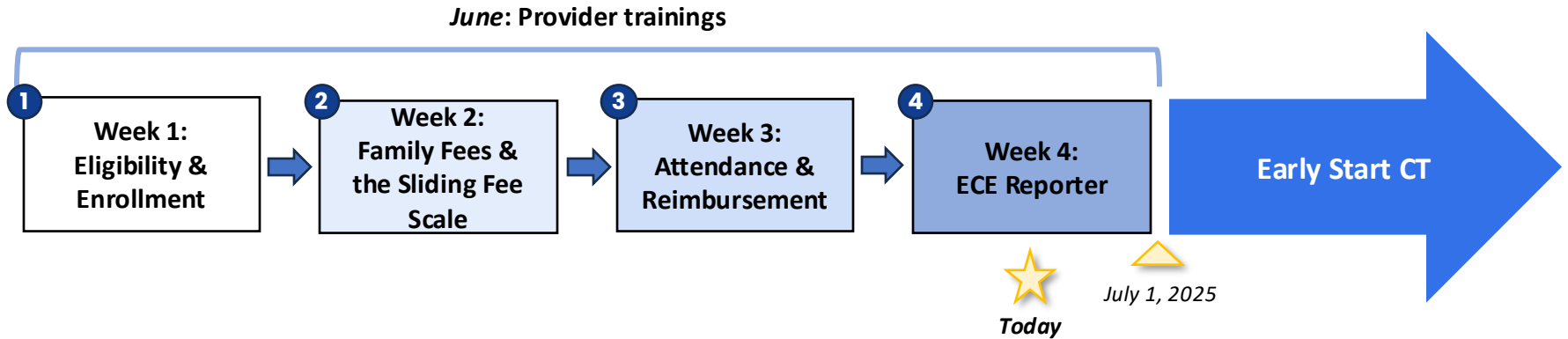
Promote best practices to enhance provider's ability to support children's learning and development.

Early Start Contract Overview

- To **expedite** contract execution, the OEC has worked with the Office of Attorney General on an **approved** ESCT contract template.

- Individual contracts **do not need** to go to the OAG for final approval.

- OAG approved templates **do not allow** for individual contract language change requests.

- The Early Start CT contract template **follows the same structure** as previously executed Child Day Care contracts **BUT is more condensed** and does not contain the content that is covered in General Policies.

- This week, OEC will begin **processing and sending contracts** to Vendors who have submitted the necessary forms and for which OEC has verified the business name in all systems.

Timeline: ESCT training and launch

June: Provider trainings

| 1 | Week 1: Eligibility & Enrollment | → | 2 | Week 2: Family Fees & the Sliding Fee Scale | → | 3 | Week 3: Attendance & Reimbursement | → | 4 | Week 4: ECE Reporter | Early Start CT |

⭐ **Today**

△ *July 1, 2025*

The Early Start CT Team will be offering additional trainings this fall.
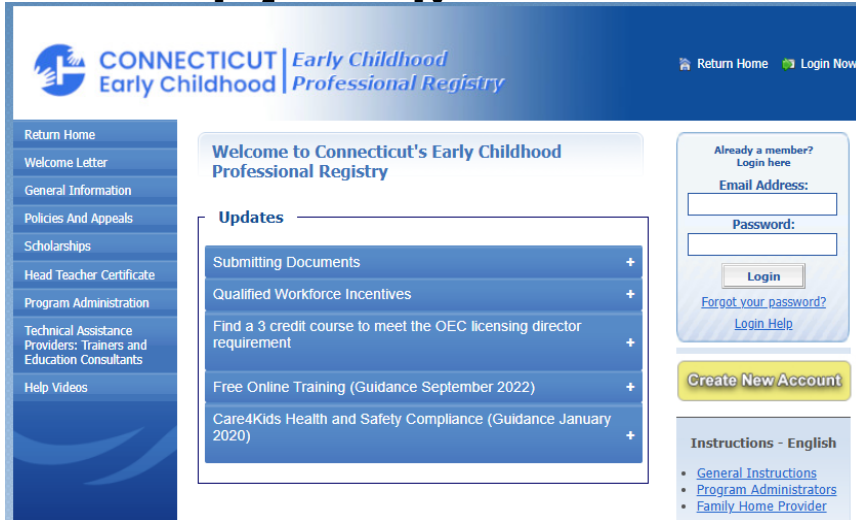
General Policies

Data Submission Systems

The Registry:

Program and Staff Information

ECE Reporter:

Child Information

General Policy: Smart Start Data Reporting

General policy language	Relevant Guidance
Smart Start grantees must submit an annual report detailing the status and operation of their program.	• This annual report will be submitted to the OEC in conjunction with the plans for the operation of the Smart Start program for the following fiscal year, if applicable. • Smart Start grantees will receive information from the OEC regarding deadlines and the submission processes for this annual report and plan.

General Policy: ECE Reporter

General policy language

Early Start CT (ESCT) Contractors, Local Governance Partner Councils, Liaisons, and ESCT and Smart Start Local Education Agencies are responsible for overseeing program compliance with these requirements.

Relevant Guidance

- Early Start CT and Smart Start programs are required to enter or upload child enrollment data and submit monthly reports via the Early Care and Education (ECE) Reporter system.

- Child Enrollment Data: Child enrollment data must be confirmed, updated and entered in ECE Reporter monthly.

- Monthly Reports: Once the enrollment data (i.e., the roster) is confirmed, programs complete the monthly report in ECE Reporter. They must confirm fields that populate automatically and manually enter any required information.

- **The information submitted in monthly reports via ECE Reporter is used to determine payments for Early Start CT programs.**

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General Policy: **Reporting Requirements**

General policy language
The Contractor and/or Program shall submit the following items in accordance with established OEC timelines.

Relevant Guidance
Annually: • Program Contact List (and within 30 days of any program changes) • Program Space Grid • ~~Annual Program Calendar~~ • Program child assessment tool **Once** per contract as applicable: • Subcontractor Monitoring Plan

General Policy: OEC Professional Registry

General policy language	Relevant Guidance
The Early Childhood Professional Registry, also known as The Registry, is a system for Early Start CT and Smart Start to access applicable staffing requirements as well as resources and scholarships available to staff.	**Individual Accounts** • Part-time and full-time teaching and administrative staff members of state-funded programs are required to hold active Registry accounts **Administrative Access** • All state-funded programs must designate at least one leadership-level staff member to request Administrative Access (Admin Access) to the program's Registry tools in order to oversee compliance • Provide a work email address in *Edit Program Details* and verify at least 2x a year program data changes.

Next Steps

ECE Reporter: Office Hours Overview of ECE Reporter data system

JULY				
MONDAY	**TUESDAY**	**WEDNESDAY**	**THURSDAY**	**FRIDAY**
	1_Early Start CT officially launches!_	**2**	**3**	**4** **Office is closed for Holiday**
7	**8** **ECE Reporter will be down beginning 5:00pm**	**9**	**10**	**11**
14 **ECE Reporter is back online and accessible.**	**15**	**16** **Office Hours: 12:00PM-1:00PM Juan Lopez en espanol**	**17** **5:00PM-6:00PM Office Hours: Juan Lopez en espanol**	**18**
21 12:00PM-1:00PM Office Hours Deana Miranda	**22**	**23** **Office Hours: 5:00pm-6:00pm Deana Miranda**	**24**	**25**
28 **Office Hours: 5:00pm-6:00pm Amari Franklin**	**29**	**30**	**31** **Office Hours: 12:oopm-1:00pm Amari Franklin**	

Check out these resources!

- **Early Start CT website - https://www.ctoec.org/early-start-ct/**

- **Current State-Funded General Policies - https://www.ctoec.org/general-policies/**

- **ECE Reporter-https://ece-reporter.oec.ct.gov**

- **Family Fee Calculator - https://ece-reporter.oec.ct.gov/#InstructionTab**

- **OEC Professional Registry-https://oecregistry.org**

Thank you!