

# **An Early Childhood System for Connecticut's Children**

The Implementation of  
Public Act 11-181

Myra Jones-Taylor, Ph.D.  
Early Childhood Planning Director

February 15, 2013

# It's all about children & families

## **Vision**

The Office of Early Childhood will create a coordinated system of programs and policies aimed at promoting optimal growth and development of all children in Connecticut from birth to age 5.

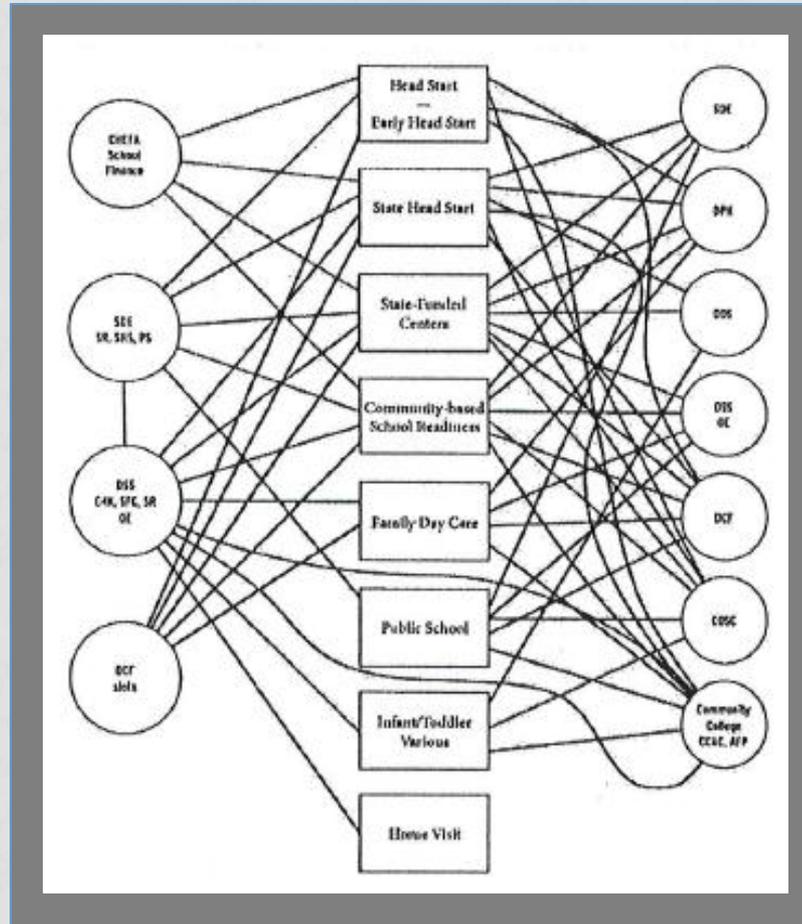
# Guiding Values and Principles

Adapted from the national EC Systems Working Group

## **Optimally, a comprehensive early childhood system will:**

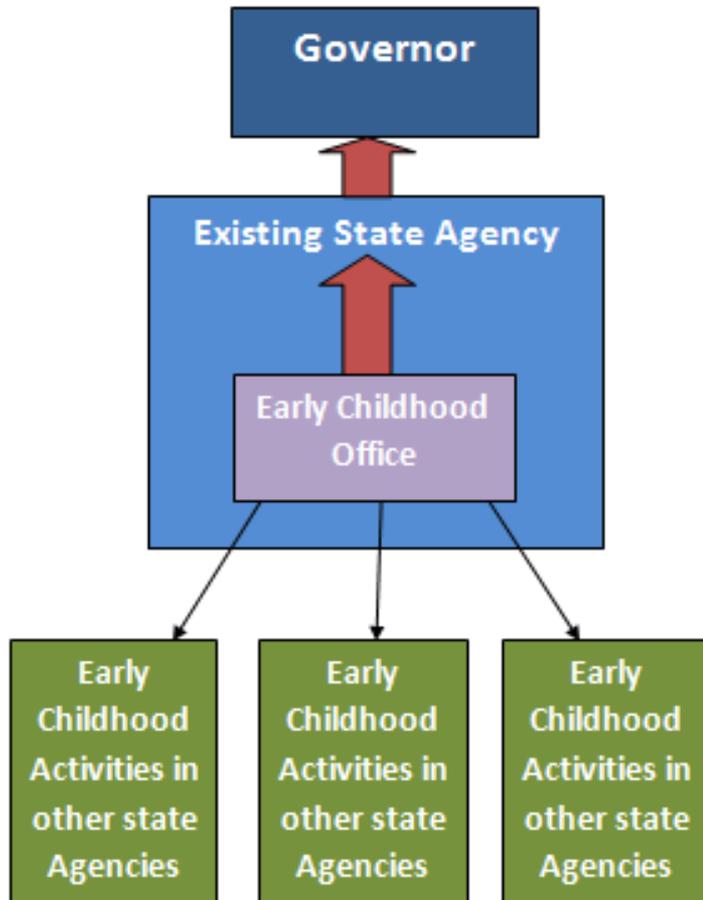
1. Reach all children and families, and as early as possible, with needed services and supports
2. Ease access for families and transitions for children
3. Value parents as decision makers and leaders
4. Ensure stability and continuity of services along a continuum from prenatal into school entry and beyond
5. Genuinely include and effectively accommodate children with special needs
6. Reflect and respect the strengths, needs, values, languages, cultures and communities of children and families
7. Catalyze and maximize investment and foster innovation

# Where We Started

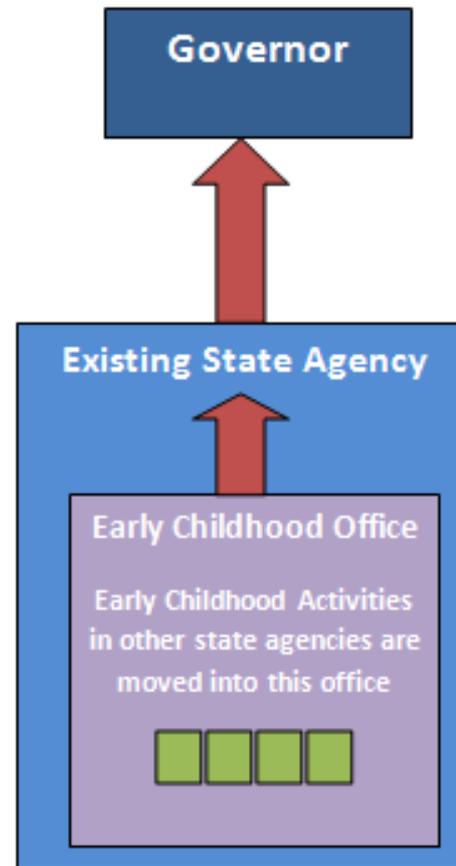


# Three Governance Structures for Early Childhood

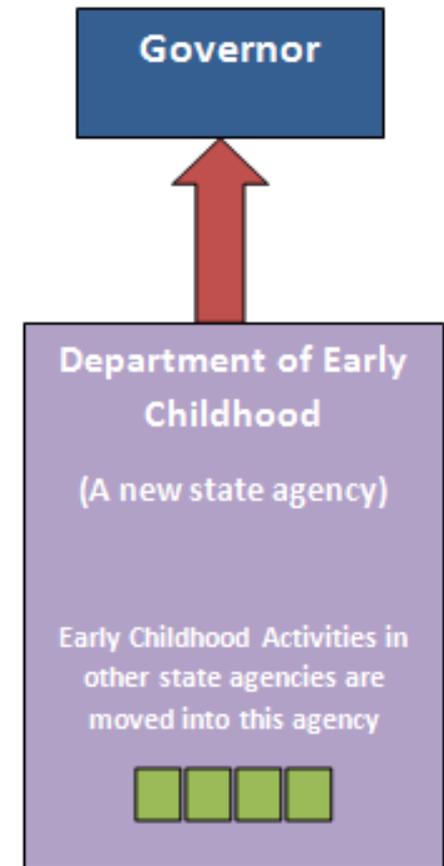
## Coordination



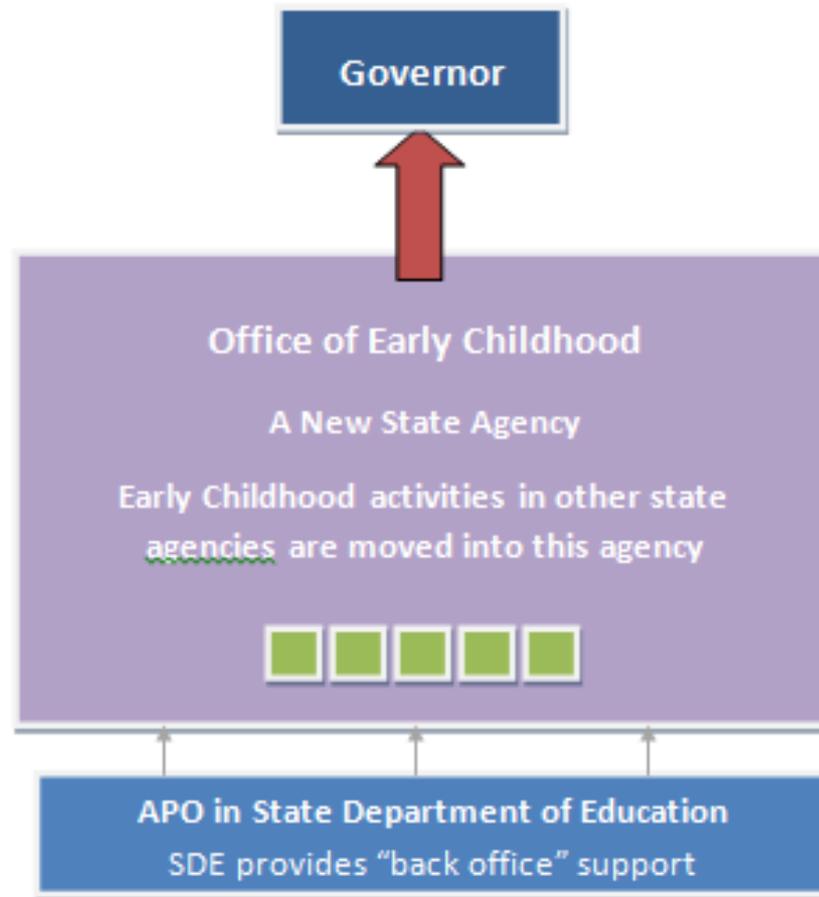
## Consolidation



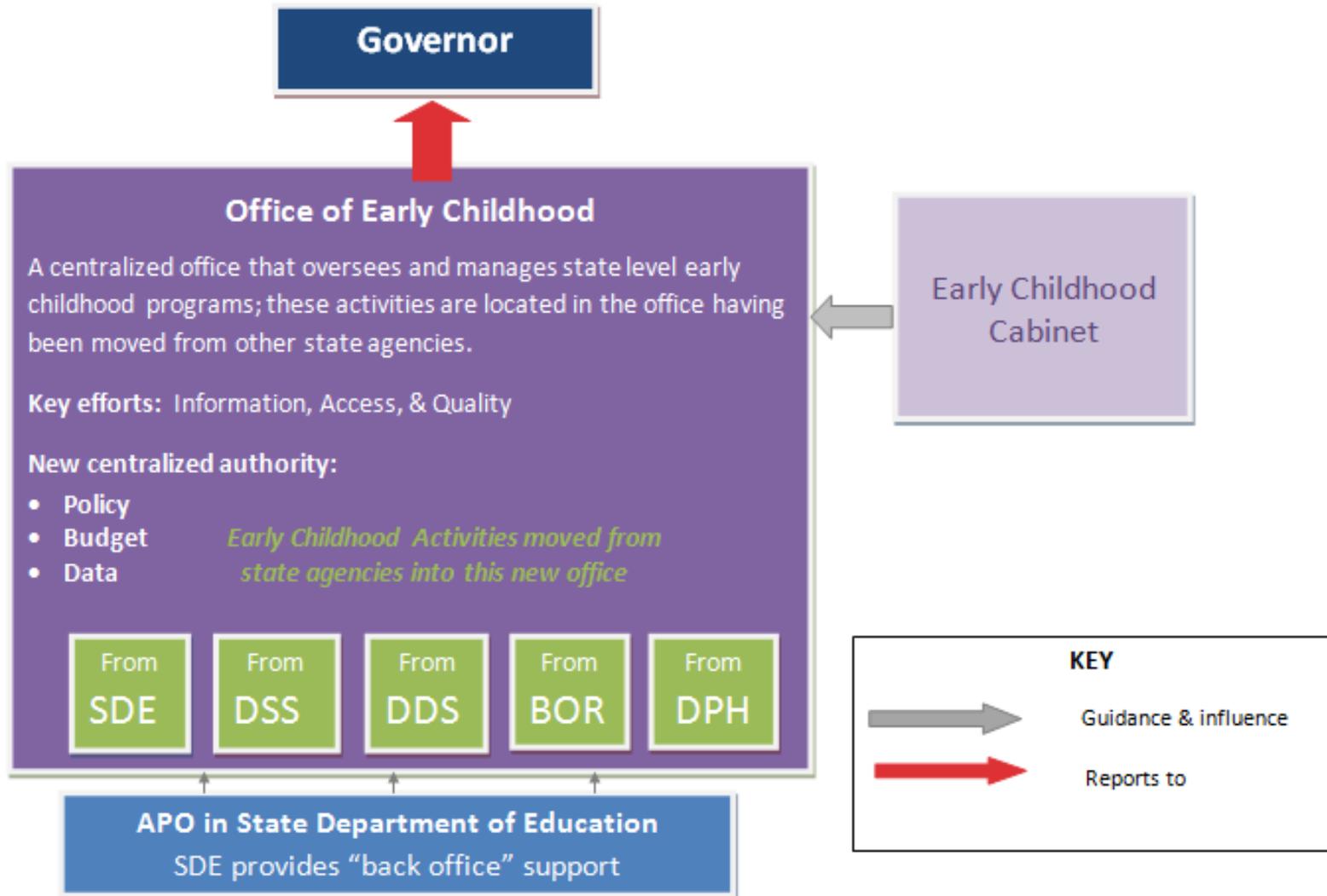
## Creation



# New Proposed Governance Structure Connecticut's Hybrid Model



# Proposed Centralization Governance Structure for Connecticut's Early Childhood System



# This is BOLD!

Only **3** other states have centralized their early childhood services in one state agency devoted to early childhood.

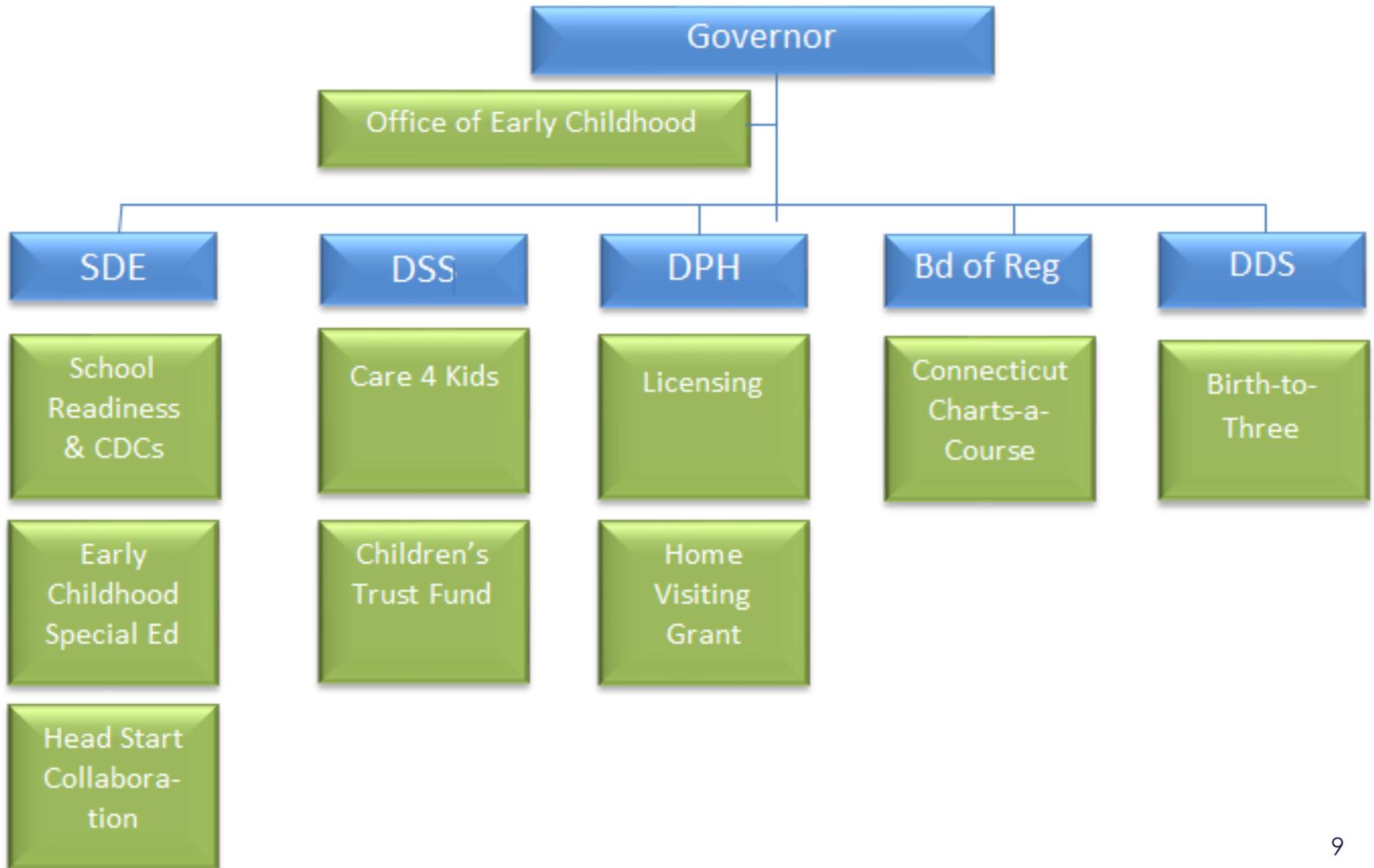
- Massachusetts
- Washington
- Georgia



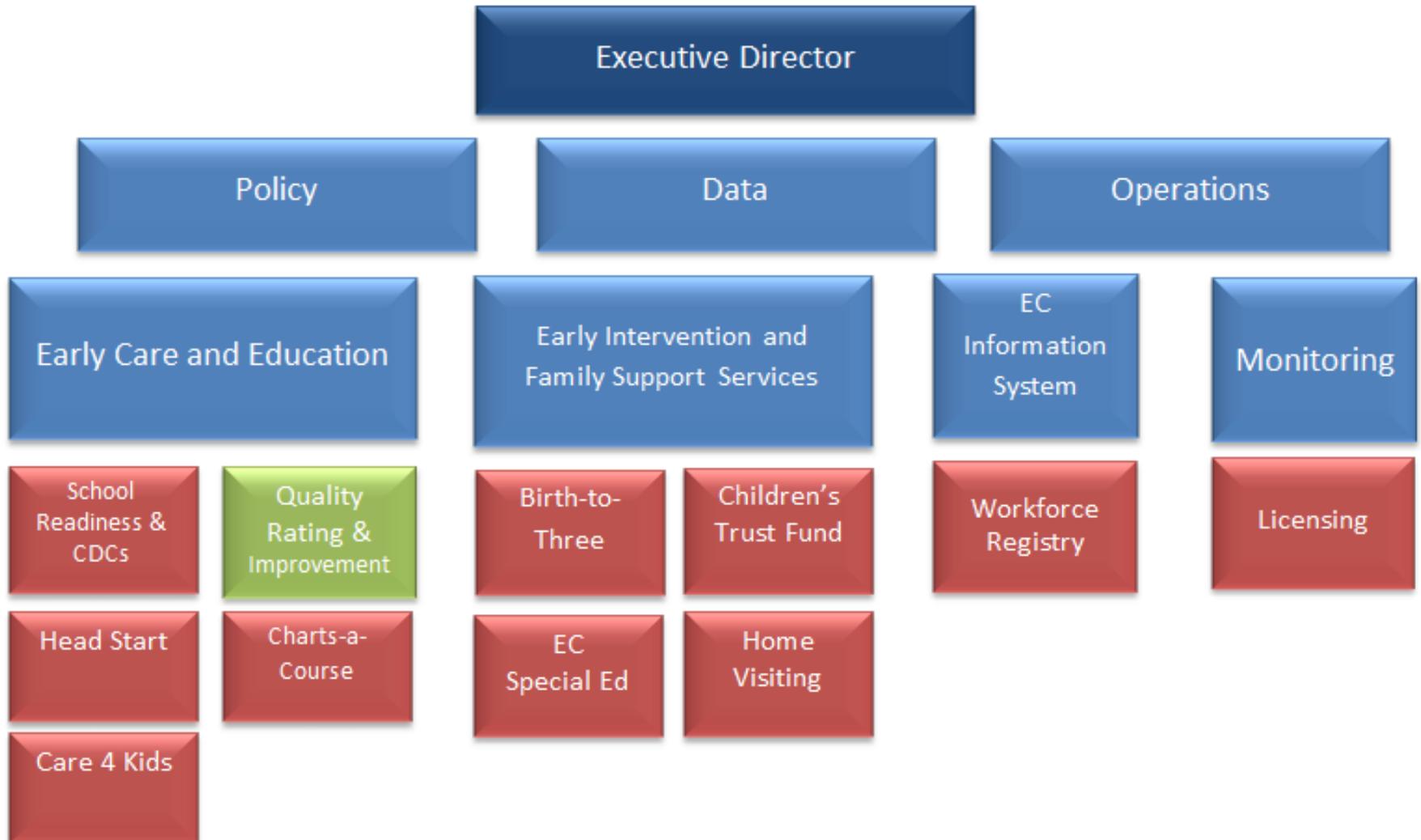
## Connecticut's Proposal:

- A new agency that reallocates and realigns existing programs and resources to better meet the needs of young children and families.
- This proposal is more comprehensive than any state – including the full range of services that children and families require starting at birth.

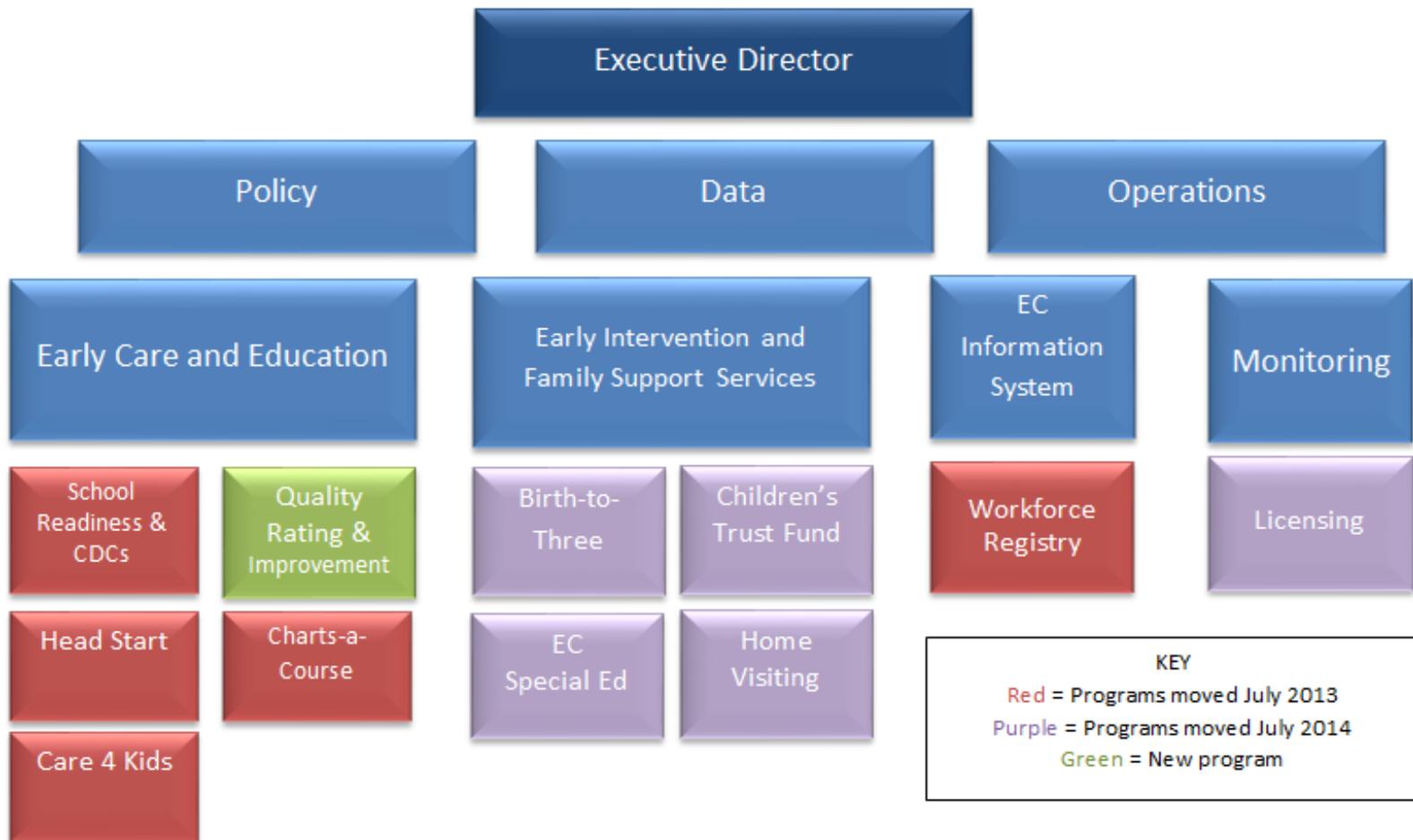
# Programs to be Moved



# Potential Organizational Structure for the Office of Early Childhood



# Phases for Moving Programs



# New Early Childhood Cabinet

## Co-Chairs

- Executive Director of the Office of Early Childhood
- Rotating from among membership

Staffed by the Office of Early Childhood

Quarterly meetings (at a minimum)

## Functions:

- Policy recommendations for an effective and cohesive system
- Annual action plans and strategic reports (as called for in 2007 Head Start Act) to Governor and committees of cognizance

# New Early Childhood Cabinet Members

- Executive Director of the Office of Early Childhood
- Commissioner of Education (current member)
- Commissioner of Social Services (current member)
- President of Board of Regents (current member)
- Commissioner of Public Health (current member)
- Commissioner of Developmental Services (current member)
- Commissioner of Children and Families (current member)
- Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management (current member)
- Project director of Head Start Collaboration (current member)
- Parent of School Readiness child (current member)
- Local early childhood education provider (current member)
- Representative of a LEA in an Alliance district (current member made more specific)
- Parent of child attending elementary school in an Alliance district (current member made more specific)
- Member of the House of Representatives (current member)
- Member of the Senate (current member)
- Representative of Head Start Association (current member)
- Representative of the business or philanthropic community (current member)

# CT's New Office of Early Childhood Thank you!

