I: Every state’s EC data system is unique. For example - in Utah there are different data systems:

- Utah Department of Health: ECIDS, MIECHV Home Visiting, Title V/WIC, Part C, Medicaid Program, Child Care Licensing, and integrate data from external partners such as: Early/Head Start & Help Me Grow, etc.
- Utah State Board of Education: SLDS grant funding, Part B, Title I, HQ Pre-K grants, school/school district (LEA) data, ongoing assessment & attendance data, etc.
- Utah – Department of Workforce Services: SLDS database and legislated research center, Medicaid Eligibility, Child Care Subsidy/Quality, TANF, SNAP, HEAT, career/wage data, etc.

Considering the above, along with data from Higher Ed and legislative efforts that effect EC jurisdiction & data sharing abilities

It’s EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR THE CROSS-AGENCY LEADERSHIP, DATA STEWARDS, ALL STAKEHOLDERS, LEGAL/PRIVACY/SECURITY, AND THE TECH VENDORS (internal and/or external) TO WORK TOGETHER, CONSISTENTLY & FREQUENTLY (and civilly) toward a common goal of integrating data to inform EVERYONE’S CQI process.

II: EC Data Integration Laundry List (developed via hard lessons learned):

A. What does the political landscape look like, the political will?
   - *This will significantly affect your pace, your success & your sustainability.*

B. Will one agency facilitate and lead the EC integrated data process? Or will a not-for-profit be the hub?
   - *Pros/cons to both approaches.*

C. Is much of your early childhood service & assessment data under one roof, i.e. a centralized Office of Early Learning that has Title I, Parts B & C, Pre-K, Head Start, Child Care
   - *The answer to this question has a significant impact on your overall approach, legalities, contracts, barriers, etc.*

D. Will your ECIDS be Centralized, Federated or a Hybrid - see attached SLDS/ECIDS doc?
E. Will your ECIDS be a research database only, or will it have operational capacities?
F. Will you have the ability to ‘tie- into’ an already existing ETL/matcher database or will you need to create/fund your own?
G. Keep in mind, you will need ongoing funding for enhancements, updates, maintenance, sustainability, etc.

III: Documentation ...

- Co-create your data sharing agreements ...
- Co-create your data governance processes & procedures (data gov manual) ...
- Develop/distribute both at the same time ...
- Create docs/processes that are foundational/firm enough to facilitate your objectives yet flexible enough to adapt as needed due to changes in funding, scope, leadership, political will, etc.

*It is critical for success to document all decisions & agreements made along the way - important stakeholders will come/go - don't let the historical decisions leave with them.*