

# RECOMMENDATION

Each year, the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness (OPSR) Board makes recommendations to improve the early childhood system in Oklahoma. Leadership and staff from state agencies, business leaders, parents of young children, and local community providers collaborate to make these recommendations. This year, the OPSR Board has prioritized one recommendation that it believes is critical to accomplish the legislative charge mandated under the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Act. The recommendation for 2014 is as follows:

Establish a task force to develop a governance policy for connecting the early childhood data currently collected by state agencies serving children. Having integrated data will enable the state to make educated decisions and help improve early childhood.

Multiple state agencies are responsible for delivering early childhood services in Oklahoma. Agencies collect and maintain data around their area of responsibility. Without data being connected, the state is missing out on opportunities to see how the entire system is doing related to early childhood program outcomes. In order to link data systems, the state must assure data security, privacy, and family confidentiality. By establishing data governance, or rules around data, Oklahoma can increase transparency related to publicly funded programs, as well as assure the public that information is secure. Data will help the state make better decisions.