

Early Achievers:
Barriers and Current and Proposed Solutions

Data System Barriers	ELAA	EARS	ELAC	IPEL	WSA	Total	Current Progress/ Action	Proposed Action
Getting data systems aligned			X		XX	3		
MERIT only in English	X	XX	X			4		CCA Regional Offices -Make the investment to support MERIT in the languages of our providers. OneAmerica - Perhaps a hard copy/paperwork system in other languages until MERIT can exist in other languages or a navigator system to help LEP providers utilize the system
Duplication/data sharing	X				X	2	CCA Regional Offices - WELS is available to all coaches for the purpose of data-sharing.	CCA Network Office - We should have some data sharing agreements built into the contracts between DEL and all the partners (CCA, UW, ECEAP contractors) to be more clear and consistent about what can/will be shared with who and how. It would be more efficient to do a statewide approach built into existing contracts than for each organization to work out the details with each other organization with which they may need to share information.
MERIT (Usability issues)	X				X	2	CCA Network Office - There was a MERIT usability study conducted by DEL already. There have also been some big improvements since the beginning of EA (the facility registration process springs to mind as an example). CCA TA Specialists often help providers with MERIT. In CCA's spring 2015 EA participant survey, nearly 75% of pre-rating providers said they had received all the help they needed from their TAS/RRC on using MERIT or they were currently getting the help they needed. Also, the percentage of TA hours spent on MERIT help dropped from 12% in 2013 to 7% in 2014 to 5% in 2015. CCA Regional Offices -This used to be the case, but in the last year, the MERIT inbox has never taken more than 24 hours to respond.	
Feedback after data collection	X	XX			X	4	CCA Regional Offices -The reports in WELS were recently overhauled. Most Quality Standard items are teased out and the rationale for not earning a specific point is more easily identified. Additionally, if there are ever questions pertaining to specific circumstances, UW has always granted specific feedback to support the outcome. In the case where a mistake is identified through this request for clarity, UW has consistently responded by making the appropriate adjustment even when it is not the case that the additional point(s) will affect the outcome.	
Lack of flexibility and adaptability	X	XXXXX				6	CCA Regional Offices -The beauty of the framework is its versatility and applicability in recognizing innumerable types of facilities. It's flexibility affords the data collector the luxury of setting aside any bias (e.g favoring center-based care over family child care) while harvesting evidence of quality that aligns with research-based tools hailed nationally and internationally as the gold standard in early learning. School-based programs can argue that Common Core compromises their ability to fare well in EA, ECEAP can argue they shouldn't have to be subject to licensing standards, Family Child Care providers can argue that the system is center-centric, but ultimately, it comes down to how to manage and balance the expectations of the framework in a way that does not compromise the philosophy and value set of the institution.	
Time-consuming	X					1		

Early Achievers:
Barriers and Current and Proposed Solutions

Data System Barriers	ELAA	EARS	ELAC	IPEL	WSA	Total	Current Progress/ Action	Proposed Action
WELS data accessibility/ reports		XX				2	<p>CCA Network Office - We currently have several workarounds/adaptations in varying degrees of completion. CCA coaches get a weekly report by email from CCA of WA to help make up for the lack of WELS reports on coaching. CCA, 3SI, DEL, and UW have all been involved at various points in the development of the ratings dashboard reports for providers. 3SI is currently working on a more automated process to produce those and a Spanish version. CCA of WA also developed a decent rating report to analyze rating results by combining data from multiple MERIT reports and PRISM cube (WELS data) data pulls. WELS also built a report in WELS itself for some rating data, although access is limited to relatively few users.</p> <p>CCA Regional Offices -This has not been found to be an obstacle in our experience.</p>	
Disaggregated data - provider language		X				1	<p>CCA Network Office - We can do (and have done) some disaggregation of various things by provider language using the MERIT demographics report, which has the self-reported primary and secondary language of the provider from when they registered for EA.</p> <p>CCA Regional Offices -If this is in reference to the desire for data to be disaggregated and translated into "provider language" this is a current practice in which Child Care Aware engages. After hundreds of rating results have been unpacked, field staff have become adept at providing the appropriate feedback using language that is meaningful and inspires goal-setting.</p>	
Quicker response time to educator applications		X				1	<p>CCA Regional Offices -This has not been found to be an obstacle in our experience.</p>	
Reports are only available in English		X				1		<p>CCA Regional Offices -At the very least, provide reports in Spanish. Materials should be translated in to the first language of the recipient.</p>
MERIT facility data should inform licensing		X				1		<p>CCA Regional Offices -Make MERIT facility data inform licensing.</p>
Slow technical support/ system bugs and delays		X			X	2	<p>CCA Network Office - I'm not sure if this falls here, but one of the barriers someone mentioned (and one that CCA has a lot of experience with) is the LMS systems being partially integrated which causes issues with needing to create multiple accounts that need different email addresses. DEL and CCA have had discussions about a full merge of the two sides to eliminate this problem, but I'm not sure what the current status of that is.</p> <p>CCA Regional Offices -This used to be the case, but in the last year, the MERIT inbox has never taken more than 24 hours to respond.</p>	
MERIT doesn't collect/ require demographic info		X				1	<p>CCA Network Office - Some demographic info is included in the EA registration process, but there are some gaps, like income and race/ethnicity, that could be useful additions.</p>	<p>OneAmerica - Address this!!!</p>
Ensure systems work properly before roll out					X	1		
ELMS/ GOLD transfer still a mess - work out bugs before two-system importing					X	1		