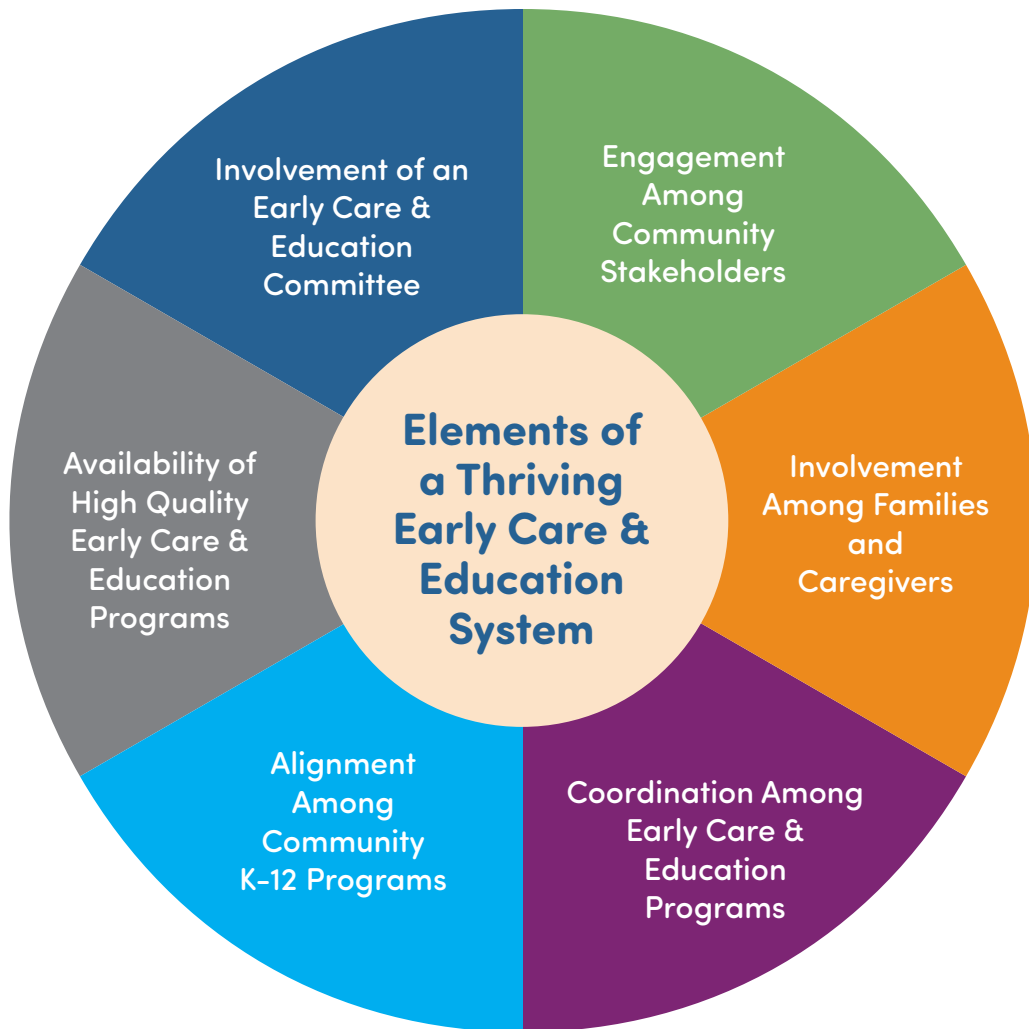


Set Up for Success: Essential Elements of Thriving Early Care & Education Systems

Early Care and Education (ECE) systems look different from community to community, and in ACS's experience, the communities with thriving systems prioritize the same six components.

Like any major system in a community, ECE does not exist in a silo. Programs, families, schools, and businesses, to name a few examples, are all impacted by the presence and health of a community's ECE system. Thriving ECE systems support a thriving community.



Early Care & Education System Elements Explained

Involvement of an Early Care & Education Committee:

A diverse group of stakeholders who are responsible for ensuring the community has a comprehensive approach to developing and improving the community's early care and education system (e.g., committee, advisory group).

Engagement Among Community Stakeholders:

Those who will benefit directly or indirectly from the success of the community's early care and education system (e.g., parents, educators, local businesses, elected officials).

Involvement Among Families and Caregivers:

Direct caregivers and broader family units are regularly informed, engaged, and invited to participate in events, programs, or activities related to the community's early care and education system.

Coordination Among Early Care & Education Programs:

Efforts made to engage all types of non-parental child care and education programs within the community to support the needs of young children, regardless of where they receive care.

Alignment Among Community K-12 Programs:

Collaboration between early care and education committee and programs and the K-12 system (e.g., public, non-public, charter schools) ensures alignment in the readiness, transition, and long-term success of young children.

Availability of High-Quality Early Care & Education Programs:

Families have access to early care and education programming that is affordable and recognized as high-quality (to be defined locally, including licensing, professional development, curriculum, etc.).

