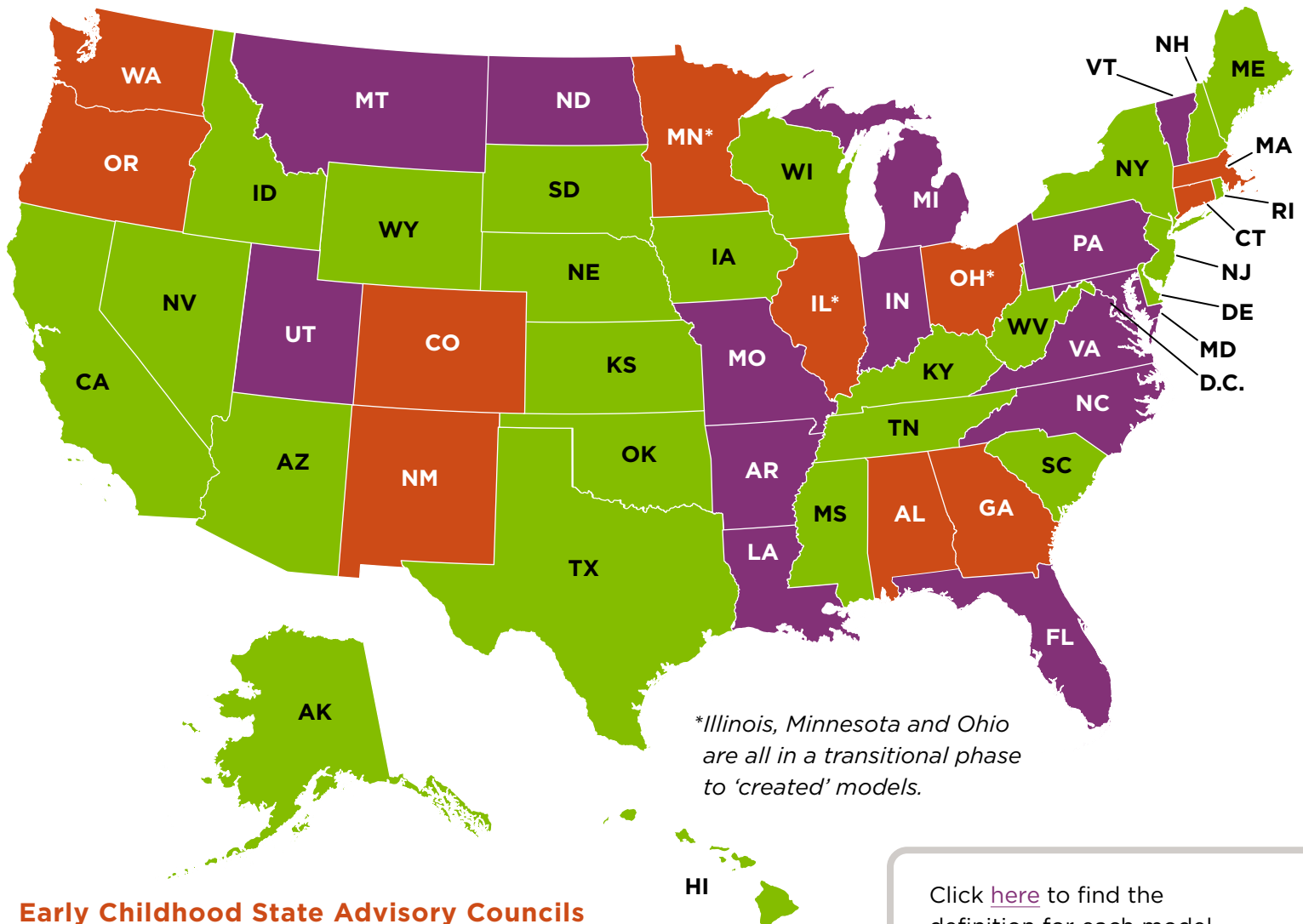


Early Care and Education Governance Models

Governing early care and education (ECE) systems is complex as multiple agencies oversee several programs and services that are funded at the state and federal levels. These programs and services all contribute to early development yet are often siloed — making alignment, coordination and funding distribution difficult. This fragmentation impacts states' abilities to provide equitable, cohesive and high-quality supports for young children and their families. While there is no evidence on the efficacy of various governance models, policy discussions and reform draw attention to these fragmented systems.



Early Childhood State Advisory Councils

A critical aspect of ECE governance is the early childhood state advisory council. This group sets the optimal vision for ECE in the state and creates accountability. State advisory councils are typically formed through statute or executive order as required by the Federal Head Start Reauthorization Act of 2007 ([joint statement](#)).

Nearly all states have confirmed advisory councils that meet at least quarterly. Currently, only 26 states require or mention administrative staffing in their stated policies.

Click [here](#) to find the definition for each model.

- **Coordinated (25)**
- **Consolidated (14 + D.C.)**
- **Created (11)**

Previous counts from 2021:
Coordinated (29), Consolidated (13 + D.C.), Created (8).