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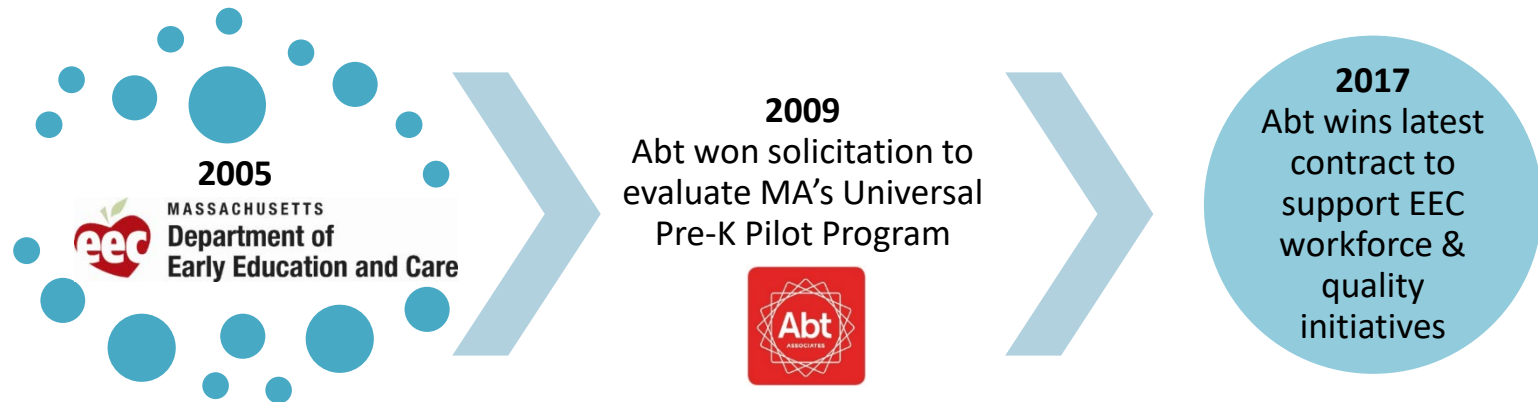
Research & Evaluation Capacity Building in Massachusetts:

A Partnership Story to Promote the Quality Rating and Improvement System

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Partnership Description



- Abt's work has focused on various EEC priorities
 - Workforce development (including coaching)
 - Preschool expansion
 - Quality improvements, including QRIS
- Abt interfaces with EEC staff across units/divisions
 - Work also involves other EEC stakeholders
 - e.g., board members, Program Quality Unit

Nature of the Partnership for QRIS Tasks

- Abt supports EEC in revising its QRIS by:
 - Making recommendations about criteria and scoring, based on:
 - How other states design/implement policies (“state scans”)
 - Research/evidence for a particular topic
 - Gathering stakeholder input within EEC
 - Developing tools to facilitate implementation



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Nature of the Partnership for QRIS Tasks

- Examples of Abt's role in QRIS development
 - Continuous Quality Improvement Plan (CQIP)
 - Curriculum requirements in QRIS
 - Rubrics and scoring criteria
- Frequency of communication
- Changes over time



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Barriers/Facilitators



- Barriers/Challenges
 - Quickly evolving work
 - Operationalizing priorities
 - Developing criteria that balance evidence and support for programs
- Facilitators
 - Flexibility to change scope quickly
 - Finding balance across priorities
 - Working on multiple components of QRIS simultaneously



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Institutional Support and Sustainability



- Abt's contract with EEC goes until summer 2019
- Awareness of Abt's institutional knowledge
- However, MA must follow procurement laws so an open-ended partnership is not possible



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Closing Remarks



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