



Early Childhood / Suspensions & Expulsions

By Bebe Bode

Recent data indicates that expulsions and suspensions occur at high rates in early childhood settings.

Early learning is critical for building an early foundation of education, social skills, and health and wellness skills that children will need in order to thrive later in life.

Today, too many preschool students are unnecessarily removed from class each year due to suspension, expulsion and other exclusionary discipline practices. Students with disabilities and children of color, (mainly boys) are far more likely to be removed from school for disciplinary reasons than any other students. These trends warrant immediate attention from the early childhood and education fields.

The information below is from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services and has extremely valuable resources for both parents and educators.

US Department of Health & Human Services

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) recently hosted a webinar series on suspension and expulsion in early childhood settings. The series featured key experts from across the country who have done work on different aspects of the issue, including policy, research and data, and prevention/intervention.

The first webinar in the series explores basic research and data trends on expulsion and suspension in early childhood



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settings: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-xEXMPTICM>

View the full *Expulsion and Suspension Prevention* webinar series: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLypiJrod4DeiSz0WfHzn8pTB2OAJ66-fh>

Click Below to download slides:

[Expulsion Webinar 1 – Basic Research](#)

[Expulsion Webinar 2 – Policies](#)

[Expulsion Webinar 3 – Program Quality and Professional Development](#)

[Expulsion Webinar 4 – Using Data Systems](#)

ACF also connects States and early childhood programs to free resources to support their efforts to prevent, limit, and ultimately eliminate expulsion and suspension practices in early learning settings. These connections include:

- Resources for States
- Resources for Early Childhood Programs
- Resources for Families and Caregivers
- Resources for Community Partners
- Resources on Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation
- Resources on Positive Behavior Intervention and Support

All of the resources above are available on <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ecd/child-health-development/reducing-suspension-and-expulsion-practices/resources#states>

The U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services and Education issued a policy statement and recommendations to assist states and public and private early childhood programs in partnering to prevent and severely limit expulsions and suspensions in early learning settings.

View the HHS and [ED Joint Letter on Suspension and Expulsion Policy](#) (PDF).

Read the [Policy Statement on Expulsion and Suspension Policies in Early Childhood Settings](#) (PDF).



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