



SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD SETTINGS

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.

On December 10, 2014, Secretaries Burwell (HHS) and Duncan (DOE) announced the release of a policy statement on expulsion and suspension practices in early learning settings.

To view the HHS and ED Joint Letter on Suspension and Expulsion Policy, please visit

- [ED and HHS Policy Statement on Expulsion and Suspension Practices in Early Learning Settings](#) [PDF, 1.3M] Includes recommendations from federal agencies to support families, early childhood programs, and States in preventing and severely limiting expulsion and suspension practices in early childhood settings.
- [Joint Letter from Secretaries Burwell and Duncan on Suspension and Expulsion Policy](#) [PDF, 49K]
- [Civil Rights Data Collection: Early Childhood Education Snapshot](#)

For more information and resources on discipline in the early learning setting and across all K-12 please visit the U.S. Department of Education's page: [School Climate and Discipline](#)