



Colorful star

The Right Stuff

Resources to Help Realize the Promise of Each Vermont Child



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Featured Topic: Suspension and Expulsion of Young Children

Recent documentation, at state and national levels, underscore how significantly issues of race, ethnicity, culture, and ability intersect with issues of suspension and expulsion. The following free resources offer information about these topics, evidence-based practices for reducing suspension and expulsion in settings serving children from birth through third grade, and resources to share with families, colleagues, and administrators.

Policy Statement on Expulsion and Suspension Policies in Early Childhood Settings

<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/school-discipline/policy-statement-ec-expulsions-suspensions.pdf>

This December 2014 joint HHS and ED policy statement aims to:

- Raise awareness about expulsion, suspension, and other exclusionary discipline practices in early childhood
- Provide recommendations to early childhood programs and states on establishing preventive, disciplinary, suspension, and expulsion policies and administering those policies free of bias and discrimination;
- Provide recommendations on setting goals and using data to monitor progress in preventing, severely limiting, and ultimately eliminating expulsion and suspension practices in early childhood settings;
- Highlight early childhood workforce competencies and evidence-based interventions and approaches that prevent expulsion, suspension, and other exclusionary discipline practices, including early childhood mental health consultation and positive behavior intervention and support strategies;
- Identify free resources to support states, programs, teachers, and providers in addressing children's social-emotional and behavioral health, strengthening family-program relationships, increasing developmental and behavioral screening and follow-up, and eliminating racial/national origin/ethnic, sex, or disability biases and discrimination in early learning settings; and
- Identify free resources to support families in fostering young children's development, social-emotional and behavioral health, and relationships.

School Suspensions Are an Adult Behavior <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8nkcRMZKV4>

This August 2016 TED talk by Dr. Rosemarie Allen offers both personal and professional insights into the challenges of early childhood suspensions and expulsions.

Infographic: Many Preschool Suspensions Are the Result of Adult Behaviors

<http://fpg.unc.edu/sites/fpg.unc.edu/files/resources/other-resources/RacialInequitiesSchoolDiscipline.pdf>

This concise infographic displays how implicit racial biases affect African American students--especially boys.

Reducing Early Childhood Expulsion and Suspension <http://ectacenter.org/topics/expulsion/expulsion.asp>

This section of the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center's website offers an array of resources, including federal guidance and resources from national centers and organizations.

Reducing Suspension and Expulsion Practices in Early Childhood Settings

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ecd/child-health-development/reducing-suspension-and-expulsion-practices>

This website offers free resources, ranging from federal policy statements and memoranda, webinars and resources, organized by audience – states, programs, families and caregivers, and community partners.

Why Schools Over-Discipline Children with Disabilities

https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2015/07/school-discipline-children-disabilities/399563/?utm_source=PAEEN+December+2017&utm_campaign=Build&utm_medium=email

While ability diversity is not a predominant factor in preschool suspension and expulsion, things change when children enter elementary school. One report (https://www.civilrightsproject.ucla.edu/resources/projects/center-for-civil-rights-remedies/school-to-prison-folder/federal-reports/are-we-closing-the-school-discipline-gap/AreWeClosingTheSchoolDisciplineGap_FINAL221.pdf?utm_source=PAEEN+December+2017&utm_campaign=Build&utm_medium=email) found that just over 5% of elementary-school children with disabilities were suspended during the 2011-12 school year, more than double the overall suspension rate. This web article offers interesting perspectives on these troubling trends.

Discipline Procedures for Students Eligible for Special Education Services

<http://docplayer.net/10791397-State-of-vermont-special-education-rules.html>

The Vermont Special Education Rules include specifics on discipline procedures for students eligible for special education.

Use of Restraint and Seclusion in Schools

<http://education.vermont.gov/sites/aoe/files/documents/edu-state-board-rules-series-4500.pdf>

Series 4500 of the Vermont State Board of Education Manual of Rules and Practices provides rules to create and maintain a positive and safe learning environment in schools, promote positive behavioral interventions and supports in schools, and ensure that students are not subjected to inappropriate use of restraint or seclusion.

Want more resources about the suspension and expulsion of young children? Look for Suspension-Expulsion Resources at this website: <http://fpg.unc.edu/presentations/vermont-resource-collections>

The Right Stuff is a free, one-way listserv that is distributed monthly. Each issue features resources for supporting the learning and development of young children who are culturally, linguistically, and individually diverse, birth to Grade 3, and their families. All resources are readily available and free. **The Right Stuff** may be freely shared or reproduced. Past issues are available at <http://fpg.unc.edu/presentations/right-stuff>

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