



Suspension and Expulsion Policy

POLICY / APPROACH:

SOCFC will not expel any child from Head Start or Early Head Start programs due to the child's behavior. Temporary suspension of a child for persistent and challenging behaviors will be severely limited and implemented as a last resort in extraordinary circumstances where there is a serious safety threat that cannot be reduced or eliminated by the provision of reasonable modifications.

This determination will not be made prior to:

- Engaging a mental health consultant (child development specialist)
- Collaborating with the child's parents / caregivers
- Providing reasonable modifications
- Identifying and accessing community resources, specialists, and early intervention providers

If a temporary suspension is deemed necessary, SOCFC will support the child's return to full services as quickly as possible while ensuring child safety by continuing to engage with parents and the mental health consultant, continuing to utilize identified community resources, providing home visits and making a determination for an IDEA referral. A written plan will be developed to document the action steps and supports needed to promote the child's successful return to full services. (See Child Guidance Plan policy and procedure).

In the event that the child's behavior continues to present a serious safety threat to the child or other children in the classroom, and all parties determine that the Head Start and Early Head Start programs are not the appropriate placement, we will:

- Comply with IDEA and the Rehabilitation Act
- Work with appropriate agencies, consultants and the child's family to determine the most appropriate placement and
- Directly facilitate transition.

POLICY COUNCIL APPROVAL: 4/18/2017
BOARD APPROVAL: 4/20/2017

HEAD START PROGRAM PERFORMANCE STANDARD:

1302.17 Suspension and expulsion
1302.45 Child mental health and social and emotional well-being

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