

Suspension and Expulsion Policy 0-5

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 serious behavioral concerns will be severely limited and implemented as a last resort, in extraordinary circumstances, where there is a serious safety threat that has not been reduced or eliminated by the provision of interventions and supports recommended by the mental health consultant and the program needs time to put additional appropriate services in place.

This determination will not be made prior to:

- Engaging a mental health consultant
- 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. A program must explore all possible steps and document all steps taken to address the behavior(s) and supports needed to facilitate the child's safe reentry and continued participation in the program (See [Child Guidance Plan & Emergency Plan Procedure](#)). Such steps must include, at a minimum:

1. Continuing to engage with parents, mental health consultant, and other appropriate staff, and continuing to utilize appropriate community resources;
2. Providing additional program supports and services including home visits; and
3. Determining whether a referral to a local agency responsible for implementing IDEA is appropriate, or if the child has an individualized family service plan (IFSP) or individualized education program (IEP), consulting with the responsible agency to ensure the child receives the needed support services.

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 of the child to a more appropriate placement.

Head Start Program Performance Standards:

1302.17 Suspension and Expulsion

1302.45 Child mental health and social and emotional well-being