

PREVENTING EXPULSION AND SUSPENSION

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DEFINITION OF EXPULSION

- Termination of enrollment of a child or family in the regular group setting because of a challenging behavior or a health condition.

(Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards - Standard 2.2.0.8: Preventing Expulsions, Suspensions, and Other Limitations in Services)

DEFINITION OF SUSPENSION

- Includes all other reductions in the amount of time a child may be in attendance of a regular group setting, either by requiring the child to cease attendance for a particular period of time or reducing the number of days or amount of time that a child may attend.
- Requiring a child to attend the program in a special place away from the other children in the regular group setting.

(Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards - Standard 2.2.0.8: Preventing Expulsions, Suspensions, and Other Limitations in Services)

CHILD CARE SUBSIDY EXPULSION POLICY

Providers receiving reimbursement through the Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship must have the following:

1. Policies in place for their program that identify justifications used for exclusionary actions. Explanations must be included in a parent handbook or child care enrollment agreement to identify the use and procedure of using such actions.

CHILD CARE SUBSIDY EXPULSION POLICY

Providers receiving reimbursement through the Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship must have the following:

2. A program's policy should include the following:
 - a. Reasons for exclusion;
 - b. How the provider will assist the child and parent with transitions; and
 - c. The types of referrals the provider will make such as those to a community agency that could offer additional supports to the family.

CHILD CARE SUBSIDY EXPULSION POLICY

Providers receiving reimbursement through the Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship must have the following:

3. Ensure that the above-noted policies do not violate any applicable provisions found in Title II of the American Disabilities Act, provisions in IDEA, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Best Beginnings Scholarship Program homeless policy found in Section 2-2 of this manual.

CHILD CARE SUBSIDY EXPULSION POLICY

After the child care authorization and corresponding certification plan is issued, a family's schedule may vary. While a family's child care authorization and corresponding certification plan may be modified or terminated at any time, the following policies are useful in avoiding temporary gaps in eligibility and services to children. The policies can be grouped under the following intentions:

- Maintain Parent's Eligibility;
- Meet the Parent's Need for Additional Child Care; and
- Stabilize Child Care Arrangement.

While all of these policies benefit the family, some are focused on the needs of their child care providers who would not be available without adequate compensation. The relationship of the child with their provider depends on the stability of the Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship. The CCR&R, the family, and the provider all have an interest in maintaining continuity of care during transition periods.

Continuity of Care Policies	Description & Requirements
<u>Expulsion- Suspension</u>	<p><u>Providers receiving reimbursement through the Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship Program must have the following:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Policies in place for their program that identify justifications used for exclusionary actions. Explanations must be included in a parent handbook or child care enrollment agreement to identify the use and procedure of using such actions.</u> 2. <u>A program's policy should include the following:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>Reasons for exclusion;</u> b. <u>How the provider will assist the child and parent with transitions; and</u> c. <u>The types of referrals the provider will make such as those to a community agency that could offer additional supports to the family.</u> 1. <u>Ensure that the above-noted policies do not violate any applicable provisions found in Title II of the American Disabilities Act, provisions in IDEA, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Best Beginnings Scholarship Program homeless policy found in Section 2-2 of this manual.</u>

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH - EXPULSION AND SUSPENSION

Background: The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services Early Childhood Services Bureau (ECSB) and its partners recognize the importance of children's social-emotional and behavioral health. High quality early childhood environments and positive experiences nurture social-emotional and behavioral health. Exclusionary practices, such as expulsion and suspension, are negative experiences that hinder children's development and learning. Therefore, it is ECSB's policy to work toward eliminating expulsion and suspension practices across early learning systems in Montana.

Policy: Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards.
STANDARD 2.2.08: Preventing Expulsions, Suspensions, and Other Limitations in Services

Expulsion refers to terminating the enrollment of a child or family in the regular group setting because of a challenging behavior or a health condition. Suspension and other limitation in services include all other reduction in the amount of time a child may be in attendance of the regular group setting, either by requiring the child to cease attendance for a particular period of time or reducing the number of days or amount of time that a child may attend. Requiring a child to attend the program in a special place away from the other children in the regular group setting included in this definition.

Child care programs should not expel, suspend, or otherwise limit the amount of services (including denying outdoor time, withholding food, or using food as reward/punishment) provided to a child or family on the basis of challenging behaviors or a health/safety condition or situation.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH - EXPULSION AND SUSPENSION

Child care programs should have a comprehensive behavior management policy that includes a description of alternatives to expulsion for children exhibiting levels of challenging behaviors, and should include the program's protocol for preventing challenging behaviors. These policies should be in writing and clearly articulated and communicated to parents/guardians, staff and others.

This policy addresses two key areas: 1) education about exclusionary discipline practices and 2) identification of the use of these practices in early childhood settings in our state. ECSB will support providers, parents, and the work of our partners, including:

- Raising awareness about expulsion, suspension, and other exclusionary disciplinary practices in early childhood settings.
- Developing a goal-driven process for improvement.
- Investing in the workforce development system by assisting providers in establishing preventative behavior management policies that limit or eliminate the use of expulsion and suspension and promote the use of evidence-based practices.
- Reviewing and updating policies regarding program quality that are specifically targeted to increase overall quality of early learning services and reduce or eliminate expulsions, suspensions, and other exclusionary discipline practices.

In addition to the state policy, the ECSB has established key goals for providers that are in STARS to Quality (Montana's QRIS). The STARS to Quality standards focus specifically on positive guidance techniques through the implementation of the framework and strategies of the Pyramid Model for Supporting Social Emotional Competence in Infants and Young Children.