



TASKFORCE:

Foundations for Success

Taskforce Meeting

March 26th, 2026 | 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

AGENDA

I. Welcome **10:00 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.**
Michael Leach, MMFT
Foundations for Success Taskforce Chair

II. The Policy and Practice Landscape for Preventing Exclusionary Discipline in Early Childhood **10:05 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.**
Heather Smith Googe, PhD
Research Associate Professor, University of South Carolina
Director, South Carolina Child Care Inclusion Collaborative
Yvonne and Schuyler Moore Child Development Research Center
Policy Research Fellow, Institute for Child Success
Principal Investigator: SC Child Care Inclusion Collaborative, SC Partnerships for Inclusion, SC Pyramid PIECES

III. Panel Discussion: **10:45 a.m. – 11:25 a.m.**
Exploring Implementation Barriers and Areas of Opportunity - *Best Practices and EBIs for Providers, Educators, Support Staff, Administrators, and Community Partners*

LaQuana Aldridge, Elementary Education Directors' Roundtable Lead
South Carolina Association of School Administrators
Richland School District 1

Kerri Wikel, Pyramid Model Coordinator
Pyramid PIECES

Sonya Harrison-Young, Early Childhood Roundtable Lead
South Carolina Association of School Administrators
Lexington School District 4

IV. Recommendation Development Discussion **11:25 a.m. – 11:55 a.m.**
(Small Group)



- V. Lunch 11:55 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
- VI. Recommendation Development Discussion 12:15 p.m. - 12:55 p.m.
(Large Group)
- VII. Next Steps & Evaluation 12:55 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Taryn Farrell, MPH, Research & Policy Manager
South Carolina Institute of Medicine and Public Health

TASKFORCE GUIDING PRINCIPLES				
<p>Consensus: Even though the decision may not be the first choice, everyone can live with and support the decision. Consensus does not mean unanimous agreement.¹</p>	<p>Inclusivity: Effective collaboration requires transparency and inclusiveness, equality among all participants, and active participation from all partners.</p>	<p>Impact: Effective collaboration requires acknowledging capacity and scaling interventions to realistic goals.</p>	<p>Strategic Alignment: Effective collaboration requires all participants to disclose when our own interests are in conflict with those of the taskforce.</p>	<p>Respect: Effective collaboration requires mutual trust and respect for organizational boundaries, continuity in communication and interaction, and a distinction between policy analysis and political commentary.</p>

MEETING OBJECTIVES
Participants will build upon knowledge gleaned from Meeting #1 on how suspensions and expulsions are handled at the state and local levels across the early care and education landscape in South Carolina.
Participants will learn about definitions of exclusionary practices as they relate to young children, policy initiatives currently being considered in South Carolina, and existing structures and practices that are available in South Carolina to prevent the use of exclusionary discipline across the early care and education system.

¹ Consensus may be reached with the understanding that some taskforce members maintained an alternative perspective. These perspectives will be acknowledged, considered, documented, and respected as a central component of the deliberative process.



Participants will learn about the Pyramid PIECES model; a program designed to foster a multidisciplinary community of practice to provide professional development aimed at strengthening the early childhood workforce, promoting young children’s well-being, and preventing the use of exclusionary practices as a response to challenging behavior.

Participants will hear from representatives of early childhood educators, providers, and school administrators as well as technical assistance team representatives to better understand workforce and training needs as well as identify best practices, barriers/facilitators to implementation, and areas of opportunity for policy and programmatic recommendation development.

Participants will continue to build recommendations.