

TASKFORCE:

Foundations for Success

Taskforce Meeting

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

AGENDA

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| I. Welcome & Introductions
Michael Leach, MMFT
Foundations for Success Taskforce Chair | 10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. |
| II. Taskforce Process Overview
Taryn Farrell, MPH, Research & Policy Manager
South Carolina Institute of Medicine and Public Health | 10:15 a.m. – 10:25 a.m. |
| III. Early Childhood Education in South Carolina:
Findings from a Landscape Analysis
Tammy Graham, Ed.D., Team Lead – Early Learning
South Carolina Department of Education | 10:25 a.m. – 10:55 a.m. |
| IV. Panel Discussion:
Early Care and Education in South Carolina

Michele Bowers, Director, Early Care and Education
South Carolina Department of Social Services

Tammy Graham, Ed.D., Team Lead – Early Learning
South Carolina Department of Education

Shayla Pettigrew, M.Ed. 4k Manager
South Carolina First Steps | 10:55 a.m. – 11:40 a.m. |
| V. Lunch | 11:40 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. |
| VI. Recommendation Development Discussion | 12:00 p.m. - 12:45 p.m. |
| VII. Recommendation Share-Out | 12:45 p.m. - 12:55 p.m. |
| VIII. Next Steps & Evaluation
Taryn Farrell, MPH, Research & Policy Manager
South Carolina Institute of Medicine and Public Health | 12:55 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. |



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 understand the processes and goals of the Taskforce, the final product of the Taskforce, and their role in serving on the Taskforce.
Participants will understand the historical context and current scope of suspension and expulsion (exclusionary discipline) practices among early learners in South Carolina.
<p>Participants will have an overview of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How discipline of early learners is handled at the state and local level ○ Developmentally appropriate guidance and behavior management techniques ○ South Carolina Child Early Reading Development and Education Program (CERDEP) reporting requirements as it is currently operationalized in South Carolina ○ Differences in disenrollment process between CERDEP and non-CERDEP programs ○ Scope of SCDE programmatic oversight

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.



○ State-level guidance on district level disciplinary policies

To inform action plan development, participants will hear from key agencies and organizations comprising the childcare and early education landscape in South Carolina regarding:

- Their respective roles
- Assessment of the issue
- Level of oversight/decision-making capacity
- Barriers and facilitators to successful implementation of strategies
- Emerging areas of opportunity

Participants will become familiar with the process of building recommendations and begin discussing action plan development.