



TASKFORCE:

Foundations for Success Taskforce

BACKGROUND

Reported in 2024, “South Carolina leads the nation in the number of preschool children, ages 2½ to 5 years old, who are suspended from school one or more times.”ⁱ This extends to children with disabilities, who are more likely than their peers to be suspended or expelled.ⁱⁱ A recent article in the Post and Courier noted that, “no state removes students with disabilities from school for 10 days or fewer at a higher rate than South Carolina [at 15%].”ⁱⁱⁱ This rate for the 2022-2023 school year was “nearly twice the national average.”^{iv} Experts noted that those numbers are likely “a substantial undercount due to widespread ‘off the book’ suspensions in South Carolina.”^v According to legal proceedings, sometimes suspensions are not reported “to avoid the legal protections that kick in for students with disabilities once they’ve been kept out of the classroom for more than 10 cumulative days.”^{vi}

RECOMMENDATION DEVELOPMENT

This process will produce an action plan for South Carolina to address suspensions and expulsions of early learners across 3k-1st grade. The action plan will include: 1) detailed recommendations comprised of action steps across 1-year, 3-year and 5-year implementation timelines; 2) identified facilitators and support for successful implementation; and 3) key champions for implementation.

Please keep the following criteria in mind when developing recommendations for the 5-year Action Plan:

Specific: Who is responsible, and for what? Name a lead entity if possible.

Measurable: How will we know if we have achieved success?

Achievable: There needs to be a chance it can happen.

Results-oriented: What does the outcome look like?

Time-Bound: When should/will the activities and actions occur?

Clearly written: Easy to understand.

Include an estimate of resources that will be required, when possible.



NEW RECOMMENDATION DEVELOPMENT

1. What ideas/recommendations do you have to reduce exclusionary discipline of early learners (3k-1st Grade) in our state?
2. How will this recommendation impact health and social outcomes for early learners and their families in South Carolina?
3. What system and process level pieces need additional support?
4. What is a realistic timeline to implement this?



5. Who are the key players or champions to support this idea and recommendation?

ⁱ Frazier, H. (2024, March 21). South Carolina leads the nation in preschool suspensions. Charleston City Paper. <https://charlestoncitypaper.com/2024/03/15/south-carolina-leads-the-nation-in-preschool-suspensions/>

ⁱⁱ Geduld, A. (2025, June 24). SC suspends students with disabilities at a higher rate than any other state, investigation finds. Post and Courier. https://www.postandcourier.com/news/sc-special-education-disabilities-students-suspension-idea-data/article_474bea01-72f3-458d-a190-fb96b0d368d8.html

ⁱⁱⁱ Geduld, A. (2025, June 24). SC suspends students with disabilities at a higher rate than any other state, investigation finds. Post and Courier. https://www.postandcourier.com/news/sc-special-education-disabilities-students-suspension-idea-data/article_474bea01-72f3-458d-a190-fb96b0d368d8.html

^{iv} Geduld, A. (2025, June 24). SC suspends students with disabilities at a higher rate than any other state, investigation finds. Post and Courier. https://www.postandcourier.com/news/sc-special-education-disabilities-students-suspension-idea-data/article_474bea01-72f3-458d-a190-fb96b0d368d8.html

^v Geduld, A. (2025, June 24). SC suspends students with disabilities at a higher rate than any other state, investigation finds. Post and Courier. https://www.postandcourier.com/news/sc-special-education-disabilities-students-suspension-idea-data/article_474bea01-72f3-458d-a190-fb96b0d368d8.html

^{vi} Geduld, A. (2025, June 24). SC suspends students with disabilities at a higher rate than any other state, investigation finds. Post and Courier. https://www.postandcourier.com/news/sc-special-education-disabilities-students-suspension-idea-data/article_474bea01-72f3-458d-a190-fb96b0d368d8.html