



TASKFORCE:

Foundations for Success

Taskforce Meeting

May 21st, 2026 | 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

AGENDA

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

II. The Early Childhood Special Education Landscape in South Carolina	10:10 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.
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Sherri Evans, MA, CCC-SLP
State Early Childhood Special Education Coordinator
South Carolina Department of Education

Jameshia Means
School Psychologist
Charleston County School District
Good Minds, LLC

Lisa Entstrasser, M.Ed. SAS
Assistant Director of Early Learning Services and Support
Department of Exceptional Children
Charleston County School District

III. Break	11:05 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.
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IV. Panel Discussion: Exploring Policy Pathways to Reduce Exclusionary Discipline in South Carolina	11:10 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
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Ryan Bailey
Director of Membership and Communications
South Carolina Association of School Administrators

Debbie Elmore
Director of Governmental Relations
South Carolina School Board Association



Patrick Kelly, M.A.T., M.Ed.
Director of Governmental Affairs
Palmetto State Teachers Association
AP U.S. Government and Politics Teacher
Richland School District 2

Jennifer Rainville, Esq.
Deputy Director
South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center

- V. **Lunch** 12:15 p.m. - 12:35 p.m.
- VI. **Recommendation Development Discussion** 12:35 p.m. - 1:50 p.m.
(Small Group)
- VII. **Next Steps & Evaluation** 1:50 p.m. – 2:00 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>

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.



MEETING OBJECTIVES

Participants will build upon knowledge gleaned from Meetings #1 -#3 on how suspensions and expulsions are handled at the state and local levels across the early care and education (ECE) landscape and the existing structures and practices that are available to prevent the use of exclusionary discipline in South Carolina.

Participants will learn about the current landscape of exclusionary discipline among early learners in the early childhood special education space in South Carolina.

Participants will learn about the regulatory landscape for early childhood special education services and supports in South Carolina (IDEA and Part B 619).

Participants will learn about the South Carolina Department of Education's Office for Special Education Supports' priorities specific to early childhood and its impact on exclusionary discipline of early learners in ECE settings receiving public funding.

Participants will learn about community-wide implementation of the Pyramid PIECES model in Charleston County School District.

Participants will hear from representatives of key partner organizations comprising the ECE policy landscape to better understand the feasibility and sustainability of draft recommendations and to identify areas of opportunity to support the successful implementation of policy and programmatic solutions in South Carolina.

Participants will continue to refine recommendations and action steps, develop implementation timelines, and identify partners to support implementation.