

Exclusionary Discipline: Early Childhood



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Exclusionary Discipline

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- How early does it begin?
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What is Exclusionary Discipline?

The removal of a child with a disability from a class, school, or other educational program or activity for violating a school rule or code of conduct.



How Early Does Exclusionary Discipline Start?

- Compared with K through 12 students, preschoolers are suspended at nearly 3 times the frequency of older students
- 250 Preschoolers are suspended or expelled every day in the US
- Boys were expelled at a rate over 4.5 times that of girls
- African–Americans children were twice as like to be expelled as Latino and Caucasian children (and about five times more likely than Asian–American children)



Examples of Exclusionary Discipline

- In-school suspension
- Out of school suspension
- Expulsion

- "Please come pick your child up early..."
- "Let's try a shortened day for awhile..."
- "Let's give your son a few days to rest and reset – bring him back on Monday."
- "Your daughter sits in the guidance counselor's office when she is being disruptive."



COMAR 3A.08.01.11(C)

C. Suspension and Expulsion.

(1) Prohibition.

- (a) Except as provided in §C(1)(b) of this regulation, a student enrolled in a **public prekindergarten program, kindergarten, first grade, or second grade** may not be suspended or expelled from school.
- (b) A student described under §C(1)(a) of this regulation may **only** be:
 - (i) Expelled from school if required by federal law; or
 - (ii) Suspended for not more than 5 school days per incident if the school administration, in consultation with a school psychologist or other mental health professional, determines that there is an **imminent threat of serious harm to other students or staff that cannot be reduced or eliminated through interventions and supports**.
- (c) The principal or school administration shall promptly contact the parent or guardian of a student suspended or expelled under §C(1)(b) of this regulation.



A Little Data...

	Pre-K	K
2018-2019	46	323
2019-2020	18	207
2020-2021	2	8
2021-2022	24	144
Total	90	682

Suspensions, Expulsions, and Health Related Exclusions
Maryland Public Schools (MSDE 2018-2019 through
2021-2022)



A Little Data...

	PK 18	K 18	PK 19	K 19	PK 20	K 20	PK 21	K 21
Disrespect	0	15	2	10	0	0	1	4
Disruption	11	84	0	19	1	2	1	13
Destruction of Property	1	3	1	11	0	0	1	7
Total	12	102	3	40	1	2	3	24

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How Does This Relate to the Pyramid Model?

- **OSEP lists pyramid model as a strategy to improve outcomes**
- **NCPMI Implementation tool/guidance document:** Pyramid Model STATE Leadership Team Guidance for Preventing the Use of Suspension and Expulsion and Promoting Equitable, Inclusive and Culturally Responsive Practice [Pyramid Model STATE Leadership Team Guidance for Preventing the Use of Suspension and Expulsion and Promoting Equitable, Inclusive and Culturally Responsive Practice - National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations \(challengingbehavior.org\)](https://challengingbehavior.org/)



Sources:

- [Pre-Kindergartners Left Behind: Expulsion Rates in State Pre-kindergarten Programs - Foundation For Child Development \(fcd-us.org\)](https://www.fcd-us.org/)
- [New Data Reveal 250 Preschoolers Are Suspended or Expelled Every Day - Center for American Progress](https://www.americanprogress.org/)
- [How To End the Preschool to Prison Pipeline | American Civil Liberties Union \(aclu.org\)](https://www.aclu.org/)
- [guidance for prohibition of suspension or expulsion for students in grades prek to 2 comar 13a.08.01.11.pdf \(marylandpublicschools.org\)](https://www.marylandpublicschools.org/)



Sources:

- [Maryland Law Offers Lessons on Restricting Early Childhood Suspension and Expulsion \(childtrends.org\)](https://www.childtrends.org/Articles.aspx?id=1247)
- [A Systematic Review of Early Childhood Exclusionary Discipline \(sagepub.com\)](https://www.sagepub.com/journalsPermissions.nav?doi=10.1177/0898010114563386)
- [The Status of School Discipline in State Policy - Education Commission of the States \(ecs.org\)](https://www.ecs.org/2016/02/01/the-status-of-school-discipline-in-state-policy/)
- [2022 OSEP Discipline-Behavior Guidance | OSEP Ideas That Work](https://www.osep.ed.gov/ideas/2022-05-01/osep-ideas-that-work)

