



## **STATE EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Thursday, December 15, 2016**

**1:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.**

**Johns Hopkins University**

**6740 Alexander Bell Drive**

**Columbia, MD 21046**

### **Agenda**

- **Welcome/Introduction of Members** – Dr. Carol Williamson, Deputy Superintendent, Office of Teaching and Learning, Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)
- **Old Business**
  - Every Student Succeeds Act – Judy Walker, Early Learning Branch Chief, Division of Early Childhood (DECD), MSDE
  - Kindergarten Readiness Assessment – Candy Miller, Education Program and Assessment Specialist, DECD, MSDE
- **New Business**
  - Suspension and Expulsion Policy – Liz Kelley, Acting Assistant State Superintendent, DECD, MSDE
- **Presentations**
  - Somerset Early Childhood Advisory Council and Family Engagement – Karen Karten, Judy Center Coordinator
  - Public Awareness - Alexis Washington and Brian Siatkowski, Community and Outreach Specialists, DECD, MSDE
- **Adjournment**

### **State Early Childhood Advisory Council 2017 Meetings**

- Thursday, March 16, 2017, MSDE\* (ECAC only)
- Thursday, June 15, 2017 (ECAC and local advisory councils) *Location TBD*
- Thursday, September 21, 2017, MDSE\* (ECAC only)
- Thursday, December 21, 2017 (ECAC and local advisory councils) *Location TBD*

\*Maryland State Department of Education  
Nancy S. Grasmick Building  
200 W. Baltimore Street  
Baltimore Maryland 21201

State Early Childhood Advisory Council  
December 15, 2016  
MINUTES

Agenda Topic	Discussion Summary	Action Needed	Due Date
Welcome/Acknowledgements/ Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dr. Carol Williamson, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, started by welcoming the State Council and having all members and guests introduce themselves.</li> <li>▪ Dr. Carol Williamson gave opening remarks discussing the accomplishments in early childhood education this past year:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ KRA Revision</li> <li>➤ School Readiness scores released</li> <li>➤ Year 3 of the pre-school development grant for \$15million</li> <li>➤ Kellogg Family Engagement Grant</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
Old Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Judy Walker presented on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). <b>See presentation</b>. Danielle Susskind was also available to answer questions regarding the ESSA plan. Prior to the Council meeting, the link to the Consolidated Draft Plan was sent to members to review. It was stated that the new provisions will go into effect in the 2017/2018 school year. It was explained that ESSA was designed to create a long-term, stable federal policy that gives states additional flexibility and encourages innovation, while at the same time holding states accountable for results. Judy Walker and Danielle Susskind encouraged council members to provide feedback either through the use of forms at the meeting or through the feedback link on the website. Council members asked questions regarding:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The use of Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) data and the new mandated later start date for all students. (Chris Peusch)</li> <li>– There is discussion about discipline practices (i.e.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Cyndi La Marca Lessner to send State ESSA website link, email presentation and Listening Tour dates to Council members.	12/20/16

Agenda Topic	Discussion Summary	Action Needed	Due Date
	<p>suspensions). There are different indicators that could be better tracked and anticipated. (Steve Rohde)</p> <p>Response – The plan is different than accountability. Maryland is working on disproportionality in suspension and expulsion issues. The team is looking at validity and consistency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Using Family Engagement as an indicator to include families as part of the educational responsibility (Dorothy Stoltz).</li> </ul> <p>Response – Family Engagement is very difficult to measure, however there are some climate surveys that will help to ask the questions that we want to know. Also, there is no policy around family engagement. MSDE does not create policies. We can only recommend the policy to the legislature.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Maryland has a longitudinal system. As we continue to develop this system, teachers will be able to follow an individual student. We will be able to see student growth percentile and project where that student will go.</li> <li>– We are implementing a child care portal that will give us the opportunity to capture children enrolled in licensed child care provider programs. (Liz Kelley)</li> <li>– Research shows that the more resources we have to put funding into foster children, homeless children, children who are EL and children with challenging behavior, the better the outcomes for these children.</li> </ul> <p>In general, several comments were made regarding the “missed opportunities” in regard to Early Childhood Education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Several stakeholders developed a letter to Dr. Salmon regarding expanding opportunities to support youngest learners through the ESSA. This letter was sent to council members.</li> <li>▪ Judy Walker presented on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment and the new school readiness scores. This information was also presented to the State Board on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Due to change in legislation this past year, jurisdictions had a choice to either do a random</li> </ul>	<p>Jurisdictional data will be sent to all Council members.</p>	<p>12/20/16</p>

Agenda Topic	Discussion Summary	Action Needed	Due Date
	sample of student assessment or a full census. Of the 24 jurisdictions, 8 chose to do full sample and 16 chose to do a sample. All assessments had to be completed by October 1. – <a href="#">See presentation</a>		
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elizabeth Kelley reviewed the Suspension and Expulsion draft policy. Ms. Kelley explained that this is a draft policy and needs feedback from stakeholders. The policy was taken from <a href="#">Caring for Children</a>. The workgroup is also closely looking at how to put policy into action and increase professional development in this area. The workgroup is considering the challenges that programs will face with this policy, most importantly, limited resources. – <a href="#">See presentation</a>. Council members asked questions regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ In regards to policy implementation, having loner blend in times.</li> <li>➤ How this policy will work into the EXCELS and meet the requirements of their contracts and policies. It was responded that programs consider the content of the policy when developing contracts and policies.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The draft policy will be emailed out and it was asked that Council members provide feedback and comments.</li> </ul>	<p>The draft policy as well as the Summary Brief and powerpoint presentation will be emailed to members.</p> <p>Council members to provide feedback and comments in track changes.</p>	<p>12/20/16</p> <p>January 16, 2017.</p>
Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Karen Karten from Somerset County presented on the work of the Somerset Local Early Childhood Advisory Council (SECAC) through the Kellogg Family Engagement grant. In addition to Learning Parties and Ready Rosie, activities included a public awareness campaign which included a school readiness billboard and a school readiness postcard that went into every mailbox in the county, inviting families to a Pre-K kickoff event. <a href="#">See handout</a>.</li> <li>Alexis Washington and Brian Siatkowski presented on public awareness and the capabilities of MSDE/DECD.</li> </ul>		

Agenda Topic	Discussion Summary	Action Needed	Due Date
	<p>Council members were made aware of the functions of the new website, email and SMS list serve and social media. <b>See presentation.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Cyndi La Marca Lessner informed the council that the emerging theme from the goal group is public awareness. This information will inform members of how to use the technology through MSDE to make more specific goals within their goal groups to get information and resources to their constituents</li> </ul>		
Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cyndi La Marca Lessner announced that Goal Groups would not be held today due to time constraints.</li> </ul>		
Additional Announcements/Questions for the Council			
Adjournment and Future Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.</li> <li>▪ Future meetings are               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Thursday, March 16, 2017 (MSDE)</li> <li>➤ Thursday, June 15, State and Local (TBD)</li> <li>➤ Thursday, September 21, 2017 (MSDE)</li> <li>➤ Thursday, December 21, 2017 State and Local (TBD)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
Notes/Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cyndi La Marca, Early Childhood Coordinator, DECD</li> <li>▪ Karina Hudack, Grant Specialist, DECD</li> </ul>		
Members in Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Brenda Hussey Gardner – State Interagency Coordinating Council</li> <li>▪ Celester Hall, Jr. – Department of Business and Economic Development</li> <li>▪ Christina Peusch – MSCAA</li> <li>▪ Crystal Barksdale - SEIU</li> <li>▪ Dorothy Stolz – Carroll County Libraries</li> <li>▪ Flora Gee – MD Association for Education of Young Children</li> <li>▪ Lisa Davis – Howard County Public School System</li> <li>▪ Louise Corwin – Ready At Five</li> <li>▪ Margaret Williams – Maryland Family Network</li> </ul>		

Agenda Topic	Discussion Summary	Action Needed	Due Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meena Gafaar – MD Family Child Care Association</li> <li>▪ Liz Kelley – MSDE, Acting Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Early Childhood Development</li> <li>▪ Mary Dammeyer, Council for American Private Education</li> <li>▪ Rachel London – MD Disabilities Council</li> <li>▪ Claudia Simmons – Head Start</li> <li>▪ Nancy Vorobey for Marcella Fanczkowski – Special Education and Early Intervention</li> <li>▪ Kim Malat – Governor’s Office for Children</li> <li>▪ Terry Bridger – MD Higher Education Institution</li> <li>▪ Diana Mellott – MD School Age Child Care Alliance</li> </ul>		

# Maryland State Department of Education

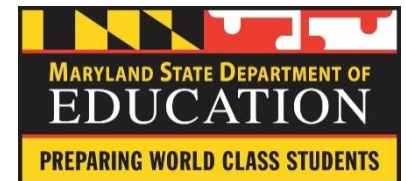
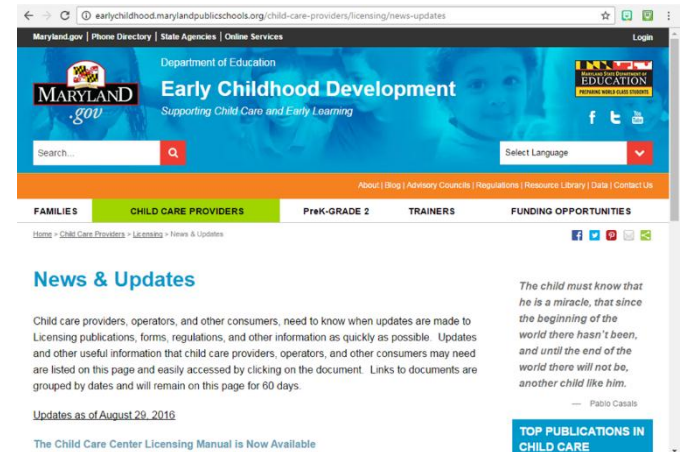
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## Communication and Outreach

Alexis Washington

# Website

- ❑ MSDE
- ❑ DECD
- ❑ New Sections
  - News & Announcements
  - Community Events
  - Career Center
    - ❑ Job Board





# E-mail List


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- GovDelivery
  - 5000+
- Internal



# Partners


- Quarterly
  - Mailed – 10,000
  - Emailed – 5,000
  - Posted to web site



Fall 2016 / Maryland State Department of Education / Division of Early Childhood Development

### Finding New Information Just Got Easier...

We've added a "News and Announcements" page to the DECD website! Updates and other useful information that child care providers, operators, and other consumers may need are listed on this page and easily accessed by clicking on the information or document title. Get the latest Licensing Branch information, changes in child care regulations and updates to various forms and resource documents, in one place. All new information will remain on this page for 90 days, at which time providers will be able to access the information where it is normally housed under "Regulations", "Forms" or "Resource Documents".



**The Licensing News and Updates page can be accessed directly at**  
<http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/news-announcements/licensing-news-updates>

It can also be accessed by clicking the Licensing News & Updates tab in the News & Announcements tab on the Menu Bar.

**What's Inside!**

- NEWS ..... pg 3
- DECD EVENTS ..... pg 11
- PROBES ..... pg 14
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ..... pg 15
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ..... pg 17
- CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES ..... pg 19
- UPDATING CONCEPTS ..... pg 20

**FAMILIES CHILD CARE PROVIDERS PreK-GRADE 2 TRAINERS NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Some of the recent news and updates available on the page include:**

- 2016-17 Kindergarten Readiness Data
- The release of the Child Care Center Licensing Manual (learn more about the manual on page 6)
- The Licensing Branch Summary
- The updated Guide to Regulated Child Care
- Updates to the Criminal Background Requirements and Process

# Social Media

## □ MSDE

- YouTube
- Twitter – 8,400+ followers
- Facebook



# Contact Me

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**[alexis.washington@maryland.gov](mailto:alexis.washington@maryland.gov)**

**[Earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org](http://Earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org)**

**410.767.7115**

# Maryland State Department of Education

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Carol A. Williamson, Ed.D.  
Deputy Superintendent  
Office of Teaching and Learning  
December 5, 2016

# 2016 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment

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- Observational and assessment tool
  - Developmentally appropriate
  - Valid
  - Reliable
- Assesses skills learned prior to entering Kindergarten
  - Skills
  - Knowledge
  - Behaviors

# New Legislative Changes

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- ❑ 8 systems and additional individual schools and teachers administered to all students
- ❑ 16 systems administered to a sample of students
- ❑ Assessment window reduced by 1 month
- ❑ Release of data by November 15

# 2016 State Overall Results

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- **43%** Demonstrating Readiness
- **38%** Approaching Readiness
- **19%** Emerging Readiness



# 2016 State Domain Results

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- ❑ **40%** Demonstrating Readiness
  - Language and Literacy
- ❑ **38%** Demonstrating Readiness
  - Mathematics
- ❑ **53%** Demonstrating Readiness
  - Social Foundations
- ❑ **55%** Demonstrating Readiness
  - Physical Well-being and Motor Development

# Maryland State Department of Education

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Brian Siatowski

# The SMS (text) platform allows for us to:

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- Send targeted communications with audiences who sign up for this service via visiting our website or by signing up after receiving a hyperlink in an email.
- Target by topic
- Receive detailed reports on who received the message, who opted out, and who responded.

# The email platform allows for us to:

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- Send targeted communications with audiences who sign up for this service via visiting our website, signing up after receiving a hyperlink in an email, or from us importing their email from another email list.
- Create easy-to-use templates
- Target users by topics
- Receive detailed reports on who received the message, who opted out, and who responded.

# Topics suggested for user lists are:

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- Child Care Providers:
  - Credentialing Updates
  - Early Learning Updates
  - Maryland EXCELS
  - Regulation Updates and Announcements
  - Training Announcements

# Families

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- Child Care Updates
- Child Care Subsidy
- Family Engagement and Support
- Judy Centers

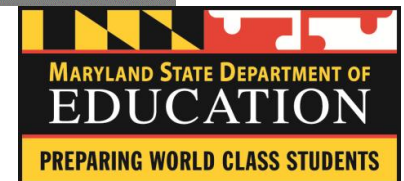
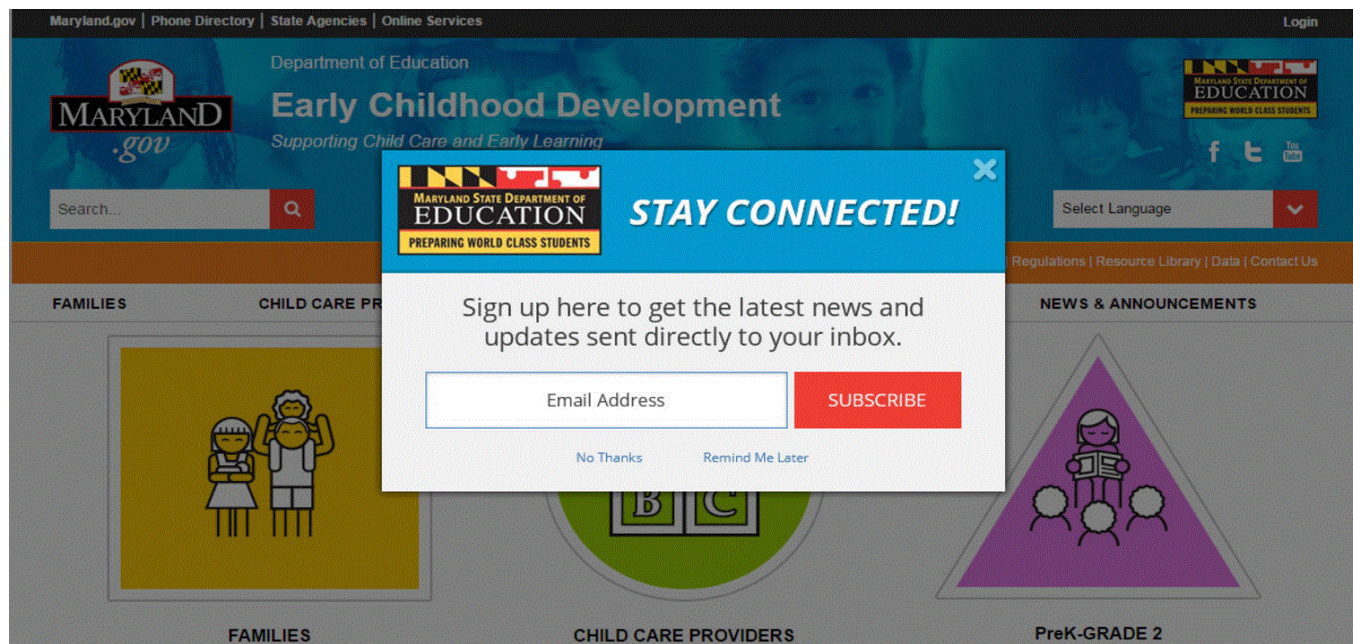
# Training

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-Training News and Updates

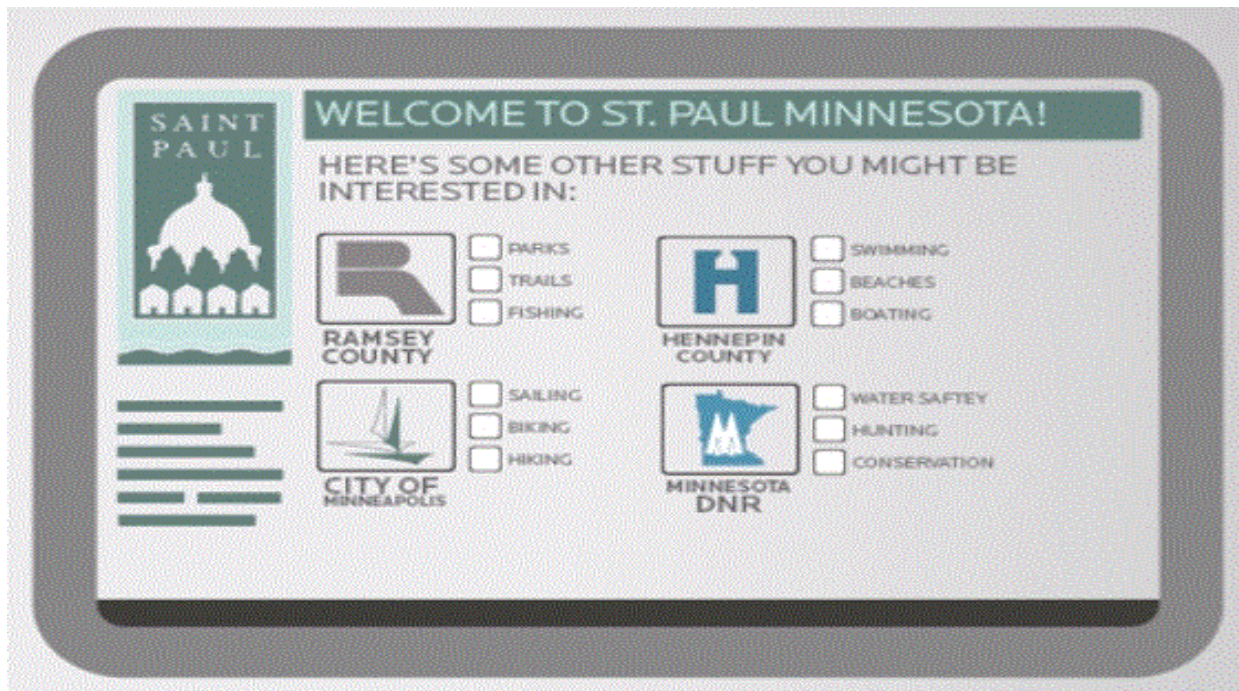
# Example of process:

- 1) Person signs up to receive emails based on topics of interest.





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- 1) Person sees our topics after signing up for a similar email list.



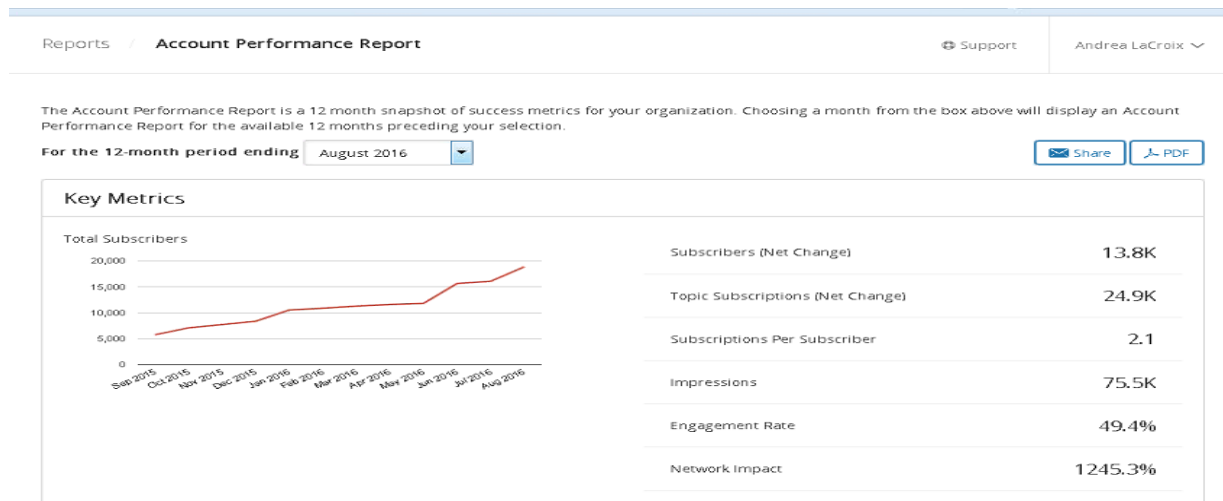
- 1) Name and information is added to the database. We manage communications to all users.

Bulletins Support Andrea LaCroix

User Drafts Page Watch Drafts **Sent** Scheduled Sharing Archived Held

Subject	Recipients	Advanced	Sent By	Sent	
Principals' Newsletter - September 26, 2016	Subscribers of 2015 School Administra...	✓	Angela de Guzman	09/27/2016 04:15 PM EDT	<a href="#">Open a Copy</a> <a href="#">View Report</a>
Update for 2017 Nonpublic Aging Schools Program - Now Accepting Applications	Subscribers of Nonpublic Textbook and...		Jamie Klarman	09/23/2016 12:48 PM EDT	<a href="#">Open a Copy</a> <a href="#">View Report</a>
Tick, Tack, Tick, Tack . . . DEADLINE to Register for Partnering Towards Employment . . .	Subscribers of MRADORS 2016 Conferenc...	✓	Kimberlee Schultz	09/20/2016 07:35 AM EDT	<a href="#">Open a Copy</a> <a href="#">View Report</a>
Principals' Newsletter - September 12th	Subscribers of 2015 School Administra...	✓	Angela de Guzman	09/09/2016 04:08 PM EDT	<a href="#">Open a Copy</a> <a href="#">View Report</a>
Update on the BOOST Scholarship Program for 2016-2017	Subscribers of BOOST 2016-17 Schools		Kenyatta DeCosta	08/31/2016 10:20 AM EDT	<a href="#">Open a Copy</a> <a href="#">View Report</a>
Test Alert	Subscribers of MSDE-ALL EMERGENCY ALERTS		Ken Cheney	08/31/2016 10:06 AM EDT	<a href="#">Open a Copy</a> <a href="#">View Report</a>
MSDE Education Bulletin, August 31, 2016	Subscribers of MSDE Bulletin	✓	Joshua Walley	08/31/2016 09:32 AM EDT	<a href="#">Open a Copy</a> <a href="#">View Report</a>
Subscribers of MSDE-ALL					

- 1) We measure results and create reports to measure participation performance and continue to improve communications with our users.



#### Effectiveness

See how your organization is increasing reach and which sources are bringing in the most subscribers.

# Questions/Comments?

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# Maryland State Department of Education

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Preventing Expulsions and Suspensions  
in Early Education Settings  
December 2016

# Objectives:

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- ❑ Identify Maryland's process to develop the policy
- ❑ Describe and share supports and resources developed
- ❑ Outline challenges

# Happenings to Highlight Issue

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- ❑ Data on expulsion bias is compelling
- ❑ Reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014
- ❑ Joint Policy Statement issued by the US Department of Health and Human Services and US Department of Education

# Maryland's Process

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- ❑ Established an Expulsion and Suspension Workgroup
- ❑ Established an Early Childhood Access and Equity Group
- ❑ Held meetings to discuss options
- ❑ Conducted research and gathered information



# Topics Covered

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- ❑ Fair and appropriate policies
- ❑ Highly-skilled workforce
- ❑ Access to specialized consultation
- ❑ Universal developmental and behavioral monitoring, screening and follow up
- ❑ Strong family partnerships
- ❑ Setting goals and tracking data

# Process

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- ❑ Create Policy
- ❑ Determine how the Policy will be used/implemented
- ❑ Present, discuss, revise, and adopt Policy
- ❑ Disseminate Policy
- ❑ Support Policy through training and technical assistance
- ❑ Track Data

# Rational for Policy

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- ❑ Expulsion is not a child behavior, it's an adult action.
- ❑ Children's early years set the trajectory for their success or failure for life
- ❑ Their earliest experiences should truly foster and never harm their development

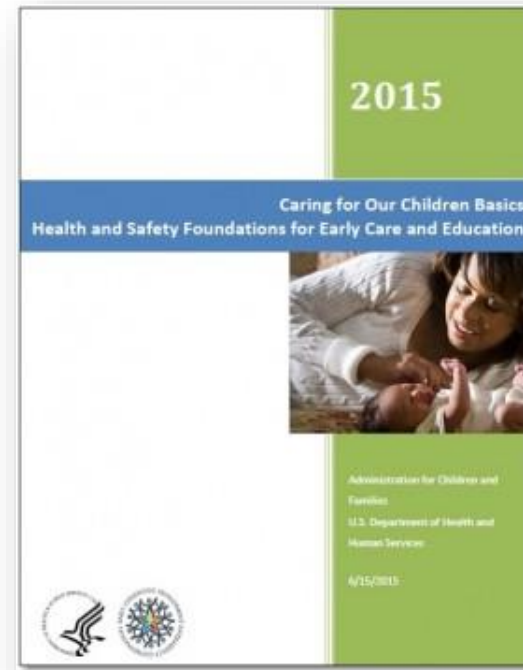
# Developing Maryland's Policy

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- Looked to a National Standard, *Caring for Our Children, National Health and Safety Performance Standards* as a guide.
  - Preventing Expulsions, Suspensions and Other Limits in Service, Standard 2.2.0.8
  - Six additional standards in support of preventing expulsion, discipline and ECMH

# Caring for Our Children

[http://cfoc.nrckids.org/WebFiles/CFOC3\\_updated\\_final.pdf](http://cfoc.nrckids.org/WebFiles/CFOC3_updated_final.pdf)



# Policy in Brief

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- ❑ Child care programs should not expel, suspend, or otherwise limit the amount of services provided to a child or family on the basis of challenging behaviors or a health/safety condition or situation unless the condition or situation meets one of the two exceptions listed in this standard.

# Policy in Brief

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- ❑ Child care programs should have a comprehensive discipline policy that:
  - Includes an explicit description of alternatives to expulsion
  - Is in writing and clearly articulated and communicated to parents/guardians, staff and others, and
  - Explicitly states how the program plans to use available mental health/other support staff to eliminate, to the degree possible, any need for external supports.

# Policy in Brief

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- Staff should have access to training (proactive and as-needed):
  - On how to reduce problem behaviors from escalating to the level of risk for expulsion and how to more effectively manage behaviors
  - Resources, and child care health consultation to manage children's health conditions in collaboration with parents/guardians and the child's primary care provider



# Implementing the Policy

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- ❑ Form strong relationships with parents and families
- ❑ Implement the Pyramid Model for supporting Social and Emotional Competence in Young Children
- ❑ Developmental screening and follow up
- ❑ Have a strong understanding of culture and diversity

# Local Resources

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- Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Project,  
<http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/early-childhood-mental-health>
- Maryland Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learning,  
<https://theinstitute.umaryland.edu/SEFEL/>

# Local Resources

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- Early Intervention,  
<https://marylandlearninglinks.org/birth-to-kindergarten/early-intervention/>
- Making Access Happen,  
<http://olms.cte.jhu.edu//olms2/makingaccesshappen>

# National Resources

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- ❑ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/Department of Education – Policy Statement on Expulsion and Suspension in Early Childhood Settings  
[https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ece/ece\\_expulsion\\_ps\\_numbered.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ece/ece_expulsion_ps_numbered.pdf)
- ❑ ACF Information Memorandum,  
<http://hsicc.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/j/325438134C782960/D3855CE463D575BB948D468F162BC46E>

# Websites

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- ❑ Early Childhood Learning Center,  
<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc>
- ❑ Center for the Social and Emotional foundations  
for Early Learning, <http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/>
- ❑ Center of Excellence for Infant and Early  
Childhood Mental Health Consultation,  
<http://www.samhsa.gov/iecmhc>

# Dissemination of the Policy

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- Create Policy Summary
  - Include in all DECD Mailings
  - Highlight at child care resource centers
- Develop
  - Press release
  - Partners Newsletter Article
  - Link on the Website
  - Training Opportunities
  - Conference Presentations

# Challenges

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- ❑ Needs may outweigh available resources
- ❑ Changing community norms (attitudes and response toward children with challenging behaviors)
- ❑ Biases
- ❑ Promotion and understanding of policy and prevention model
- ❑ Ability to provide continued supports needed to assist practitioners with classroom management practices.