

Office of Licensing & Accreditation Suspension and Expulsion Policy

This policy by the Office of Licensing and Accreditation (OLA) in South Dakota emphasizes the importance of supporting children's growth and development in child and school age care settings by limiting expulsion and suspension practices. The policy outlines that expulsion and suspension can have negative impacts on a child's social-emotional development and long-term educational outcomes.

The policy encourages child and school age care providers to seek training, technical assistance, and support to handle challenging behaviors positively, with the goal of keeping children in care or finding more suitable settings when necessary. Providers are strongly encouraged to establish clear policies that limit exclusionary practices and communicate these policies effectively to staff and families.

Support for implementing these practices is available through regional Early Childhood Enrichment (ECE) programs across the state, with contact information provided on the South Dakota Department of Social Services website.

Creating an expulsion and suspension policy for a child and school age care programs requires clear guidelines that align with best practices for supporting children's development while minimizing exclusionary discipline.