



Oregon Department of
**Early Learning
and Care**

**Early Childhood Suspension &
Expulsion Prevention Program**

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Overview

1. Suspension and expulsion happens at high rates in birth-five settings, disproportionately affecting children of color and children with disabilities.
2. Early learning and care providers need support to address challenging behaviors in care.
3. DELC is developing supports with community input.
4. A continuum of technical assistance, support, and enforcement is in development for after 2026.



Introduction and Legislative History

SB 236:

- Establishes a ban on the use of suspension and expulsion in early learning and care programs; effective July 1, 2026
- Ban will apply to any early learning and care program that is certified or registered or that receives public funding
- Calls for a study on the use of suspension and expulsion, and efforts to reduce and prevent the use of suspension and expulsion in early learning and care programs; due September 15, 2024

HB 2166:

- Establishes the Early Childhood Suspension and Expulsion Prevention Program
- Includes an array of services and supports



Suspension & Expulsion:

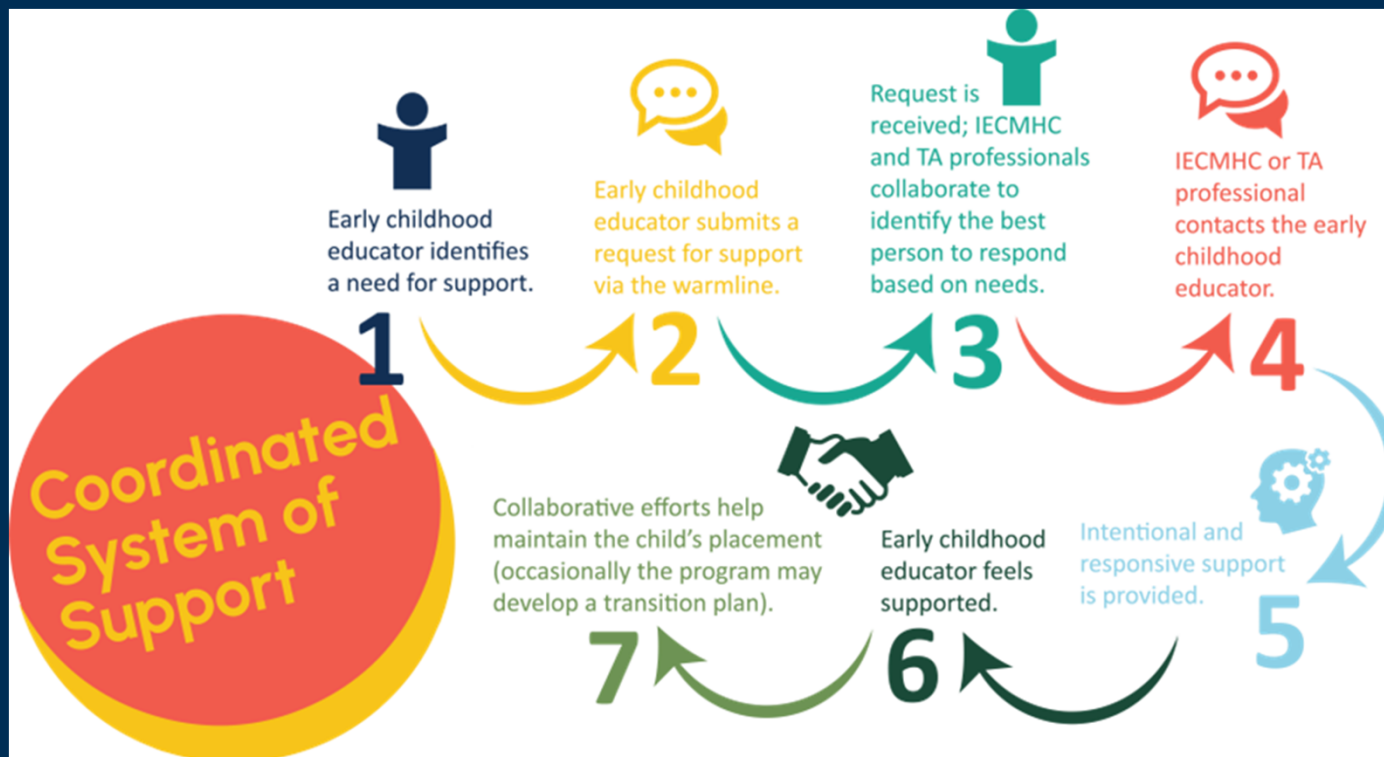
What it is, why it matters and what we know

The Department of Early Learning and Care's most recent survey of families in 2022 showed children are asked to leave care at these rates:

- 9.1% of all families had a child under the age of five asked to leave care in the last year
- 16.1% of children were African American or Black which is the highest rate of any racial or ethnic group
- 22.1% are children with developmental disabilities or medical needs
- 14% of the children were infants
- 17% were toddlers

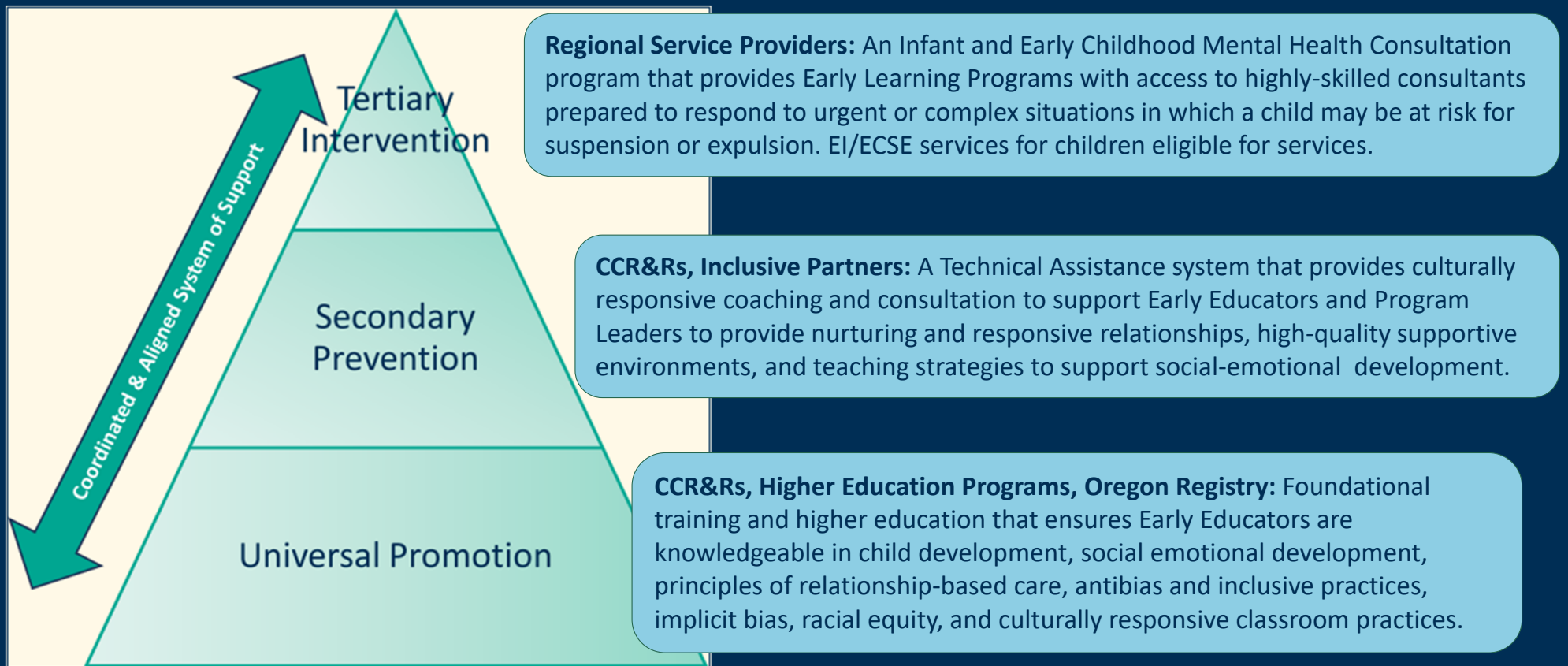


Oregon's strategy for reducing suspension & expulsion





Oregon's strategy for reducing suspension & expulsion





Professional Learning System:

What is already in place and what are we building

- 15 regional Child Care Resource and Referral organizations have:
 - 70 quality improvement specialists working with 544 early learning and care programs
 - 19 infant toddler specialists working with over 210 early educators
 - 44 coaches and 22 quality specialists working with Preschool Promise and Baby Promise programs
- Adding 15 regionally based Inclusive Partners positions to each CCR&R supporting early learning and care programs to meet the needs of children with disabilities
- Funding regional service providers to hire infant and early childhood mental health consultants, 22 positions throughout the state

Advisory Group Members

Representation	Number
Parent/Caregiver	2
Child Care Provider	6
Early Learning Council	1
Direct Technical Assistance	1
Indirect Technical Assistance	2
Specialized Services	2
Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMHC)	1
Community Partners	2
Total	17





Progress and Timelines

January 2024 – Regional Service Providers selected to provide infant and early childhood mental health consultation (IECMHC)

February 2024 – Regional Inclusive Partners positions in grant agreements with CCR&Rs

March 2024 – Central entity under contract to provide statewide professional development and coordination of the IECMHC

September 2024 – Research study being conducted by the Coalition of Communities of Color, on the use and disparities of use of suspension and expulsion

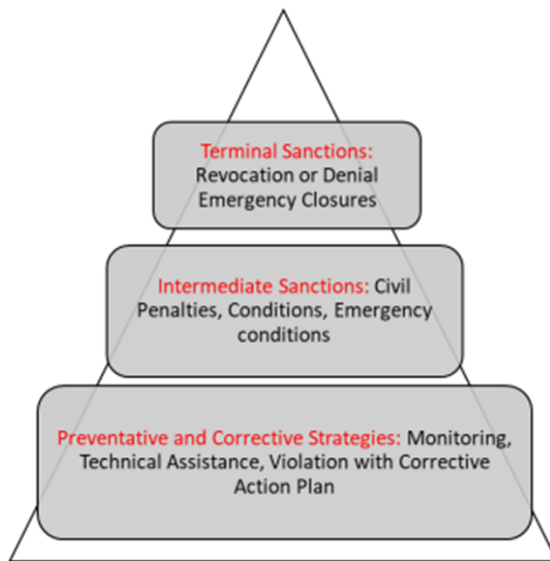
March 2024 – January 2025 Regional Service Providers move from planning into implementation of IECMHC

Spring 2025 – Warmline is available for early educators and families to access to request support

July 2026 – Prohibition on suspension and expulsion goes into effect



Progressive Enforcement of Child Care Licensing Rules



"Serious Violation" is defined in rule as:

- Children are in imminent danger
- More children in care than allowed by licensed capacity
- Use of prohibited disciplinary methods
- Children are not being supervised
- Multiple or serious fire, health or safety hazards are present
- Extreme unsanitary conditions are present
- Adults are in the facility who are not enrolled in the Central Background Registry (CBR)
- A facility is providing child care without the appropriate licensure.

A violation of the suspension and expulsion ban would not fit into the definition of "serious violation" when it is the only violation present in the facility and therefore, could be addressed with technical assistance. CCLD is obligated to make findings on a complaint.



Gaps in Statutory Authority to Enforce SB 236

Current ORS 329A.625 is limited to banning the suspension or expulsion of children in child care settings but not the enforcement of that statute in child care statutes.

DELIC recommends amending statutes to place the ban within the other authorities DELIC has for requirements in licensed programs:

- Inspections and monitoring
- Investigations
- Civil Penalties
- Grant the Early Learning Council authority to allow for exceptions

Without statutory amendments to these bills, the requirements will remain symbolic and unenforced.



Questions?

