



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

DATE: February 16, 2018
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: Steven M. Constantino, Ed.D., Acting Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Board of Education Approved *Guidelines for the Prevention of Suspension and Expulsion of Young Children: Supporting Children with Challenging Behaviors in Early Childhood Settings***

On January 25, 2018, the Board of Education approved the proposed *Guidelines for the Prevention of Suspension and Expulsion of Young Children: Supporting Children with Challenging Behaviors in Early Childhood Settings*.

The Department of Education has posted links to the [*Guidelines for the Prevention of Suspension and Expulsion of Young Children: Supporting Children with Challenging Behaviors in Early Childhood Settings*](#) on the [Division of Instruction's Early Childhood webpage](#).

The primary purpose of the Guidelines is to provide guidance regarding policies and best practice in implementing developmentally appropriate experiences for children in early care and education programs (0-5 years) that can prevent suspension and expulsion. Recommended research-based practices promote collaboration between family and professionals and focus on effective classroom management and social-emotional skill development to support young children's healthy development. Recommendations are for teachers and administrators supporting children in early care and education programs.

The Department of Education requests that you share the *Guidelines for the Prevention of Suspension and Expulsion of Young Children: Supporting Children with Challenging Behaviors in Early Childhood Settings* with your school board, Virginia Preschool Initiative Steering Committee members, and early childhood community partners. Technical assistance with the Guidelines will be provided at Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) Coordinators' meetings and other early childhood meetings held throughout the state.

For additional information about the Guidelines, please contact Dr. Mark R. Allan, Early Childhood Education Project Manager, Office of Humanities and Early Childhood, by email at mark.allan@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-3665.

SMC/MRA/vdg