



NYS ELAN/NBCDI TEAM

Equity for All
New York State Equity Leaders Action Network in
partnership with the Northeast National Black
Child Development Institute

Letter to Business Leaders

Dear Mr/Mrs./Ms. _____:

Preschool students are more likely to be expelled than students in any other grade. In fact, **preschoolers are being expelled at more than three times the rate of students in kindergarten through 12th grade.**

Every day, 250 preschoolers are suspended or expelled. Black students represent 18% of preschool enrollment, and 42% of preschooler suspension. White preschoolers make up 43% of enrollment, but only 26% of school suspension. **Black students are suspended and expelled at three times the rate of white students.**

Suspension and expulsion in the early years may have a profound impact on children's social-emotional development and adjustment to school. This trend may also interfere with, or delay the process of, identifying and addressing mental health and behavioral issues or a disability.

Here is what you can do to help reduce or eliminate expulsion and suspension in early education:

- Send letters to your colleagues in the business community as well as elected officials to enlist their support in reducing and eliminating suspension and expulsion of our youngest citizens from birth to five.
- Design forums on preschool suspension and expulsion for business leaders to educate and engage them in this critical initiative.
- Sponsor equity training for early education teachers and providers.
- Advocate for funds for professional development for teachers/providers, recruitment and retention of teachers of color in classrooms as well as mental health consultants in early childhood settings.
- Visit <https://www.earlycareandlearning.org/nys-elan-nbcdi.html> to download the toolkit, and to join the email list to stay updated on news.
- 'LIKE' the Early Care & Learning Council's page on Facebook.
<https://www.facebook.com/earlycareandlearning/>
- Post on social media. Check out our toolkit for sample Tweets, and Facebook posts.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Full name

Email address

Supported by



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NBCDI
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**Early Care &
Learning Council**
United to Promote Quality



Where Early Childhood Research, Policy, and Practice Intersect.

