



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 Parents

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 your child'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 other parents to educate them about the issue.
- Create parent cafes within the community and invite educators for a conversation.
- Advocate for funds for professional development for teachers/providers, recruitment and retention of teachers of color in classrooms, and mental health consultants in early childhood settings.
- Visit <https://www.earlycareandlearning.org/nys-elan-nbcdi.html> to download our 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

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NYSELAN Partners



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National Black Child
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Learning Council**
United to Promote Quality



Where Early Childhood Research, Policy, and Practice Intersect



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