

There are two OCDEL Announcements that are effective July 1, 2017 and apply to all OCDEL Bureaus and programs. These announcements connect deeply with the shared values and vision across all OCDEL initiatives and programs. The timeline below can help you plan how you can support the families, children and staff in your program.

1. *Inclusion of All Children in Early Childhood Programs in Pennsylvania*
2. *Reduction of Expulsion and Suspension in Early Childhood Programs in Pennsylvania*

The **OCDEL Inclusion Announcement** is in response to the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Education (ED) policy statement recommending that states develop policies and practices to increase the inclusion of infants, toddlers, and preschool children with disabilities in high-quality early childhood programs.

The **OCDEL Suspension & Expulsion Announcement** is in response to the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Education (ED) policy statement recommending that states develop policies and practices to significantly limit the practice of expulsion and suspension of young children due to challenging behaviors in all early childhood programs.

July 2017: Look for the release of the Announcements via the PA Early Ed News (www.pakeys.org). Take some time to read the Announcements and think about what supports your program will need to meet them. Think about the families you support and how to involve them in implementing the Announcements. Reach out to the other programs in your area, including Early Intervention. Look at the resources on the PA Key www.pakeys.org and EITA Portal www.eita-pa.org.

July 25, 26, 27, 2017: Consider attending the presentation on the *Administrators' Tool Kit on Preventing Early Childhood Suspension and Expulsion*. This half-day session will provide administrators of early learning programs a hands-on experience in identifying characteristics of their program that potentially increase the risk for early childhood suspension or expulsion and planning systemic changes to minimize this risk. Participants will start with a program self-assessment. The self-assessment results will guide exploration and use of the online toolkit, *Preventing Suspensions and Expulsions in Early Childhood Settings* and planning strategies that will address the needs of individual programs. See the flyer at <http://bit.ly/2tobcOa> for registration information.

August 2017: Watch for a brief tool, *Getting Started: Implementing the OCDEL Inclusion Announcement*. This quick guide is designed to help programs frame the seven local steps outlined in the OCDEL Inclusion Announcement.



Late summer/early fall 2017: Watch for the guidelines for the Announcements to be released. There are resources to help you! Please read the guidelines and begin to make connections with your local partners like Early Intervention, Child Care, Head Start, Pre-K Counts programs, or other local planning and coordination groups.

September 2017: Look for the release of the STARS Orientations. The Announcements align closely with the STARS Core Principles and are a foundational piece of every program's efforts to build their structural quality. Please ensure your staff understands how and why these announcements are meaningful for both the children and teachers in your program. Please note the Announcements apply to all OCDEL programs and are part of the STAR 2 Performance Standards.

October 2017: Join us at the Early Childhood Education Summit (earlychildhoodsummit.org) to learn more about the Announcements and connect with other programs and partners.

December 2017: Think about the professional development you and your staff have accessed over the past six months. Are there more supports you need? Different information? A deeper dive into one specific topic? Please let us know! All programs will receive an on-line survey to ensure OCDEL is meeting your needs.

February 2018: December's survey results will be shared with the field, along with the proposed new resources and supports that will be developed during spring/summer 2018.

March 2018: Please join us for a webinar from Early Intervention Technical Assistance on how to use a new online course, *Collaborating for Inclusive Practices in Early Childhood*. This innovative course is designed to be taken by Early Intervention and early childhood partners working through the online course together. Let's think together about how to best support all children! Information about the webinar will be sent out in the PA Early Ed News. Subscribe to the PA Early Ed News at <http://bit.ly/2dyEwsP>.



July 2018: Please join us in welcoming our new Early Learning Resource Centers (ELRCs)! The ELRCs are your one stop for supportive resources and connecting children and families to resources to support their ability to find and stay in a high-quality early learning program. Information on connecting to your local ELRC will be announced through the PA Early Ed News.