

	DHS Early Head Start Program Policy		
ERSEA 10			
SUBJECT	Suspension and Expulsion Due to Behavior		
REFERENCE	Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment, and Attendance		
EFFECTIVE	02/01/2025		
Policy Council Approval: 1/24/17	Policy Council Revision: pending	Governing Body Approval: 2/20/17	Governing Body Revision: pending
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Policy:

The Early Head Start (EHS) Program, to include both the Early Head Start and the Early Head Start– Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP) programs, limits the use of suspension due to a child’s behavior. Suspensions may only be temporary and used as a last resort in extraordinary circumstances where there is a serious safety threat. The EHS program must consult with the recipient’s Mental Health and Education coordinator, and collaborate with parents to ensure all other resources, including behavior support, psychologists, or other specialists, have been engaged prior to implementing a temporary suspension. If a temporary suspension is deemed necessary, the EHS program must help the child return to full participation in all program activities as quickly as possible while ensuring child safety and engaging with the parents, Mental Health Coordinator, and other appropriate staff to facilitate continued participation the program.

Child Care Service Providers cannot expel or unenroll a child due to behavior. If a child exhibits persistent and serious behavioral concerns, Child Care Service Providers must explore all possible steps and document all steps taken to address such problems, and facilitate the child’s safe participation in the program. If, after the Child Care Service Provider has explored all possible steps, in consultation with the parents, the child’s teacher, Education Coordinator, and the City of San Antonio Mental Health Coordinator, and City of San Antonio Head Start Program Administrator, determines that the child’s continued enrollment presents a serious safety threat to the child or other enrolled children and determines the program is not the most appropriate placement for the child, the Child Care Service Provider must facilitate the transition of the child to a more appropriate placement.

Information related to the suspension or expulsion of a child must be documented in ChildPlus.

Performance Standard:

1302.17 (a) (b)