



News and updates from the
Early Childhood Department



Illinois
State Board of
Education

April 2023

Early Childhood Block Grants

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION LEGISLATION

Subpart D was added to the Administrative Code at 44 Ill. Reg. 1942 effective January 10, 2020. This applies to exclusionary discipline in early childhood programs that receive Early Childhood Block Grant funding (Section 2-3.7(a)(7) of the School Code). The exclusionary discipline amendment is composed of a Behavior Support Plan, a Program Transition Plan, and annual reporting requirements based on these plans. Behavior Support Plans must be completed to document support that is being provided to address challenging behaviors in the classroom. A Program Transition Plan is to be completed prior to a child being removed from a program as a last resort when the previous steps have not been successful. The link to the forms and other related documents can be found below:

- [Behavior Support Plan](#)
- [Program Transition Plan](#)
- [Behavior Support Transition Plan Instruction Manual](#)
- [EC FAQ Behavior Transition Plan](#)

PREVENTION INITIATIVE PARENT AND OUTCOMES QUESTIONNAIRES

The fiscal year [2023 Parent and Outcomes Questionnaires](#) must be completed by **Aug. 31**. The Parent and Outcomes Questionnaires offer opportunities to capture the parent perspective and the activities occurring within the program. The systems and questionnaires are the same as FY 2022. The data is required to fulfill Section 2-3.89 (c) of the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/2-3.89). Prevention Initiative staff who are responsible for the data collection and entry should watch a brief [training webinar](#) to learn about the data collections.

For assistance, please contact 217-524-4835 or earlychi@isbe.net.

ISBE would like to extend our sincere appreciation to you for your continued commitment to improving the lives of children and families by providing quality Prevention Initiative education and case management services.

Early Childhood Special Education

TRANSITION PLANNING CONFERENCES

Transition planning conferences or transition meetings for children currently enrolled in early intervention must be held no sooner than nine months and at least 90 calendar days before the child's third birthday. The Child and Family Connections (CFC) service coordinator is responsible for convening, conducting, and keeping a record of this meeting. At the transition planning conference, the CFC service coordinator (with input from the Local Education Agency) shall keep a record and provide the parents/guardians:

- Information about preschool services under Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B,
- A description of IDEA Part B eligibility definitions,
- State timelines and processes for consenting to an evaluation and conducting eligibility determinations under IDEA Part B, and
- Information about the availability of special education and related services.

The school district has an obligation under the law to participate in transition planning conferences. The conferences must be held, whether or not the school district participates.

EARLY CHILDHOOD OUTCOMES

Early Childhood Outcomes ratings are required **annually between Feb. 1 and July 31**. [The Early Childhood Outcomes in Illinois module](#) was developed by Early CHOICES. This module reviews the three Early Childhood Outcomes that are used to help measure the impact early childhood intervention has on a child's ability to have positive social relationships, acquire and use knowledge and skills, and take appropriate action to meet their needs. [The Early Childhood Outcomes Frequently Asked Questions](#) document was recently updated and posted to the website.

Kindergarten/KIDS

SAVE THE DATE

The seventh annual *Mastering KIDS Summit* is coming to a town near you! We are offering two sites this year. **On Friday, Dec. 8**, the summit will be held at Tinley Park Convention Center and on **Wednesday, Dec. 13**, the summit will be held at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. Join fellow kindergarten teachers, district and school administrators, KIDS coaches, and partners. This provides an opportunity to network, learn from experts and peers across the state, and gain practical insights you can use in your classroom and school. Information about sessions and registration will be coming soon.

Professional Development

PARTNER PLAN ACT CONFERENCE

The annual Partner Plan Act conference, *Equity from the Start: Overcoming Obstacles, Leveraging Opportunities*, will take place virtually **May 16-18!** Be sure to save the date. The focus will be on the *obstacles* that are sure to arise for stakeholders that are shifting power to parents, providers, community members, and families as well as the *opportunities* found in the early childhood sector and ways in which communities have leveraged them. Registration information is coming soon. Keep an eye out for an announcement and check the [Partner Plan Act website](#) for updates.

INCLUSION OF YOUNG CHILDREN WITH AUTISM

STAR NET Illinois is hosting a series of workshops to support the inclusion of young children with autism with Vanderbilt University Professor Erin Barton. Each workshop will provide strategies to support the inclusion of individuals with autism and spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities in preschool. Topics include [Rationale, Myths, and Quality Instruction](#); [ABA, Learning Cycles and Goals](#); and [Embedding Instruction](#). Workshops will take place from **4-5:30 p.m. on April 3, April 17, and May 1.**

COLLABORATING WITH FAMILIES LEARNING SERIES

Start Early would like to announce two new learning experiences being offered to early childhood professionals working with adults in Prevention Initiative programs. The new learning series unpacks the unique factors that affect adult learning and literacy so early childhood professionals can be more effective in collaborating and engaging with diverse families. Each series includes two-part, virtual webinars facilitated live by Hannah Jones-Lewis. Part 1 introduces concepts and tools to apply to everyday practice. Part 2 provides an opportunity for reflective learning and application, focusing on implementation and practice.

Series 1 focuses on Using Adult Learning Styles and will take place from **1-2 p.m. on April 24 and May 8.** Series 2 focuses on How Adult Literacy Informs my Work and will take place from **1-2 p.m. on June 6 and June 13.** Registration is open on the [Professional Learning Network webpage](#).

SUPERVISOR REFLECTIVE PRACTICE GROUPS

Supervisors Reflective Practice Groups are available to all home visiting and center-based program supervisors. These groups, offered by Start Early, are designed to provide ongoing support pertaining to the issues supervisors might commonly experience. Groups are put together based on regional location. Please reach out to Ms. Jones-Lewis at hjones-lewis@startearly.org for more information about each location and schedule.

Current groups offered:

- DuPage Cohort
- Central Illinois Cohort
- Mount Vernon Cohort
- Sterling Cohort
- South Suburbs Cohort
- North Chicago Cohort

ADDITIONAL UPCOMING TRAININGS

- [Transition from Early Intervention to Early Childhood](#) – April 5, Virtual
- [High Quality Feedback Builds Children's Learning in a Powerful Interaction](#) – April 10, Virtual
- [Empowering Self-Regulation in the Classroom for All Students](#) – April 11, Virtual
- [Developing Oracy: Supporting Dual Language Learners](#) – April 12, Virtual
- [Building Phonological Awareness with Picture Books](#) – April 13, Virtual
- [Administrator Forum Session VII- The Continuous Quality Improvement Plan \(CQIP\): Practices of Program Excellence](#) – April 13, Virtual

- [Implementing WIDA's Essential Actions in Preschool Programs](#) – April 19, Virtual
- [The Power of Shared Writing](#) – April 25, Virtual

Dates to Remember

APRIL

20

30

MAY

30

JULY

20

30

31

- [Childhood Teacher Educators](#) – April 24, Virtual
- [The Power of Shared Writing](#) – April 25, Virtual
- [Focused Social and Emotional Attention for Preschool Children with Challenging Behaviors](#) – April 26, Virtual
- [Quarter Expenditure Reports](#) due
- [Intervention Techniques for Working with Trauma- impacted Young Children: Strategies for the Classroom and Other Settings](#) – May 1, Virtual
- [Final amendments due for June 30 project end dates](#)
- [Power of Play/Learning for PreK and Kindergarten](#) – May 3, Virtual
- [Positive Solutions for Families](#) – May 4, Virtual
- [Adventurous and Intriguing Children: Strategies for Supporting Challenging Behaviors in Inclusive Classrooms and Beyond](#) – May 5, Urbana
- [Grant Periodic Report due](#)
- [Building Writing and Print Awareness with Picture Books](#) – May 9, Virtual
- [Final amendments due for Aug. 31 project end dates](#)
- [Administrator Forum Session VII – Practices that Build Inclusive Preschool Programs](#) – May 17, Virtual
- [The Sensory Gifts and Challenges in Nature Settings](#) – June 7, Normal



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The Illinois State Board of Education is the State Education Agency for Illinois. Our mission is to provide each and every child with safe and healthy learning conditions, great educators, and equitable opportunities by practicing data-informed stewardship of resources and policy development, all done in partnership with educators, families, and stakeholders.

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