

Plan for Prevention of Suspension and /or Expulsion of Children with Unique Needs/Challenging Behavior

Purpose: It is the intent of Wake County Smart Start to severely limit suspensions and expulsions in early childhood education programs serving children birth-through-five years of age. It is recommended that early childhood programs focus on fostering social-emotional development, appropriately responding to challenging behaviors by incorporating preventive guidance, discipline practices and policies before ever considering suspension from sites. For further information see the Division of Child Development and Early Education’s [policy statement](#).

Annually, Wake County Smart Start (WCSS) Staff and Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) ChildFind Coordinator meet to review previous year's referral process and update referral forms. NC Pre-K Quality Enhancement Specialist (QES) or staff distributes updated referral information to administrators, and it will be posted on WCSS website. Site Administrators share referral information with Pre-K lead and assistant teachers. Site Administrators and classroom staff conduct observations and screening of all children in their programs. If a child’s participation at a program presents a safety risk to themselves, peers, or staff, the following intervention plan is implemented.

