



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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**TO:** Superintendents and Principals  
Exceptional Children Directors  
Title I Directors  
Head Start Directors  
Early Childhood Directors/Coordinators

**FROM:** Pamela L. Shue, Assistant Superintendent of Early Childhood *PLS*  
William J. Hussey, Director, Exceptional Children Division *WJH*  
John R. Pruette, Executive Director, Office of Early Learning *JP*

**DATE:** March 15, 2018

**RE:** NC Early Childhood Suspension and Expulsion- Special Stakeholder Session  
May 10, 2:00 PM-5:00 PM and May 11, 9:00 AM- 2:00 PM  
Sheraton Inn, One Europa Drive, Chapel Hill NC

The Office of Early Learning (OEL) will be hosting a special stakeholder meeting in Chapel Hill, NC for Superintendents, Principals, and Early Childhood leaders in the NC Public School system. The feedback we receive during this meeting will be used to help shape policy and procedures for preschool suspension and expulsion in NC public schools that the OEL will bring before the State Board of Education in the coming months. This is in response to changes in the IDEA that requires states to report the number of suspensions and expulsions for children ages 3-5 by the year 2020. In addition, such a policy addresses the State Board of Education goal to mitigate chronic absenteeism in the public schools. This meeting is jointly funded by the Exceptional Children Preschool Program (Vivian James, Coordinator), Title I Preschool (Carla Garrett, Coordinator) and the Head Start Collaboration Office (Karen McKnight, Director).

The objectives of the meeting are to: a) understand the national research on why such a policy is needed, b) review draft recommendations for such a policy from the Office of Early Learning and learn how those recommendations were developed, and c) provide input and feedback on these recommendations for an early childhood policy and developmentally appropriate procedures for

## OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING

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public school staff. Dr. Rose Marie Allen (<http://www.rosemarieallen.com/biography--dr.-rosemarie-allen.html>) will provide the keynote message on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Allen is the President and CEO for the Institute for Racial Equity & Excellence, which focuses on ensuring equity in educational practices. She is a nationally recognized speaker on implicit bias and suspensions and expulsions for young children. Stakeholder groups will be facilitated with public school staff on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

PRC 119 funds may be used for travel reimbursement when appropriate. Participants will have to initially pay for their travel and rooms, but reimbursement forms will be available at the meeting for those not eligible for local PRC 119 funds. In this case, reimbursement (travel and lodging) will be provided through the Early Learning Network, FPG, UNC-Chapel Hill. We have reserved a block of rooms for the first 50 registrants at the Sheraton. We will contact individuals if they need to secure their own lodging after the on-line registration is completed. The estimated lodging cost is \$109.50/night + tax. Lunch will be provided on May 11th.

Please register for this event here: [https://unc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_dcCKSdJLdOwFhj](https://unc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dcCKSdJLdOwFhj)

CC: Vivian James  
Carla Garrett  
Karen McKnight  
Adam Holland  
Amy Jablonski  
Tracey Zimmerman