**Data-based Practitioners: How to use Data for Decision Making Data Dilemma**

You are a teacher at ABC Preschool Program in the State of Garden. Your state has decided to embark on a systems change initiative to reduce the amount of suspension and expulsion in early childhood settings. Specifically, this initiative has gained focus in Garden due to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of Education *Policy Statement on Expulsion and Suspension Policies in Early Childhood Settings*. This Policy Statement provides recommendations on setting goals and using data to monitor progress to ultimately eliminate suspension and expulsion practices. Your program has been selected as a pilot site to examine data, develop an action plan, and implement program improvements. The Director at ABC Preschool Program has asked you to serve on a program leadership team that will be analyzing program wide data and using it to make decisions about how to move forward and reduce suspensions and expulsions.

ABC Preschool program consists of 10 classrooms serving 145 children ages 2-5. Please take a moment to review the demographic data of the program.

The program leadership team has come together to examine their data. They begin by discussing the data they have access to and the questions they want to answer. As a team they identify the following questions:

* How many suspensions or expulsions have we had in the last year?
* What are the characteristics of the children and families we are removing from our program?
* Are there specific classrooms that remove more children? Or remove children more often?
* Why are children being removed from our program?
* What practices are staff using to support appropriate behaviors in the classroom?

Now within your group, we want you to critically examine the data provided. Your group should go through the following activities:

* Identify the data the team has to critically examine their questions.
* Identify areas of strength from the data.
* Identify areas of need from the data. Where does the data suggest a need for improvement?
* What inferences can you make from the data?
* What additional questions would you ask, if you were on the program leadership team?
* What additional data does the team need to collect? If you identify additional data, how might you collect this data in a way that’s reasonable and feasible?

After you have examined the data, we want you to begin thinking about potential actions to move ABC Preschool Program toward reducing suspensions and expulsions. What are potential steps you would take to address the areas of need identified and capitalize on the areas of strength?