

Santa Barbara County Plan for Expelled Youth

July 2015 - June 2018

Collaborative Plan

by

Santa Barbara County Education Office

and

Ballard School District

Blochman Union School District

Buellton Union School District

Carpinteria Unified School District

Cold Spring School District

College School District

Cuyama Joint Unified School District

Goleta Union School District

Guadalupe Union School District

Hope School District

Lompoc Unified School District

Los Olivos School District

Montecito Union School District

Orcutt Union School District

Santa Barbara Unified School District

Santa Maria-Bonita School District

Santa Maria Joint Union High School District

Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District

Solvang School District

Vista del Mar Union School District

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Introduction

Countywide Plans for Provision of Educational Services to Expelled Youth California Education Code (EC) Section 48926 initially required county superintendents, in conjunction with superintendents of the school districts within the county, to develop a plan for providing educational services to all expelled pupils in that county. The plan was to be adopted by the governing board of each school district within the county and by the county Board of Education, and submitted to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI) in 1997. EC Section 48926 also requires that each county superintendent of schools, in conjunction with district superintendents in the county, submit a triennial update to that plan to the SSPI.

The plan shall enumerate existing educational alternatives for expelled pupils, identify gaps in educational services to expelled pupils, and strategies for filling those service gaps. The plan shall also identify alternative placements for pupils who are expelled and placed in district community day school programs, but who fail to meet the terms and conditions of their rehabilitation plan or who pose a danger to other district pupils, as determined by the governing board.

In 2012, the recommended content of the Countywide Plan was amended to address additional, more detailed questions that were raised and supported by the State School Attendance Review Board and the Student Programs and Services Steering Committee of the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association. These questions concern behavioral intervention approaches used to minimize the number of suspensions and expulsions, including a focus on how such practices may impact any disproportionate number of minority students being suspended or expelled.

The Countywide Plan requirements and recommendations are described below:

1. The Countywide Plan must list and describe the educational alternatives currently available for expelled students. It is recommended that the plan also describe strategies for improvement during the next 3 years, including:
 - Any behavioral intervention practices, at the site and district levels, and options used to:
 - minimize the number of suspensions leading to expulsions.
 - minimize the number of expulsions being ordered.
 - support students returning from expulsions.
 - provide specific explanation of how those practices relate to any disproportionate representation of minority students in such interventions.

2. The Countywide Plan must address gaps in educational services and strategies for filling them. If a 2012 Countywide Plan identified gaps in educational services to expelled pupils, it is recommended the 2015 plan include the following information regarding the implementation of strategies outlined for filling those service gaps:
 - Were the strategies successful or not? Please explain why and how they were or were not successful.
 - Were any additional strategies implemented? If so, explain why and how they were or were not successful. For strategies that were not successful, describe any additional measure(s) or approach(es) taken, and the outcome(s).

3. Identify alternative placements for pupils who are expelled and placed in district community day school programs, but who fail to meet the terms and conditions of their rehabilitation plan or pose a danger to other district pupils, as determined by the governing board.

In addition, under the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), county offices of education are required to adopt a Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) for county operated schools and programs which includes goals, actions, and expected measurable outcomes in 10 state priority areas, for all pupils and subgroups of pupils identified in EC Section 52052. Included among the priorities, a county office LCAP must address how it will coordinate the instruction of expelled students under EC Section 48926. Thus, the Countywide Plans will contribute to the information presented in the LCAP and provide a regional perspective on meeting the needs of expelled pupils.

Summary of Districts in Santa Barbara County

There are 14 elementary school, 2 high school, and 4 unified school districts within Santa Barbara County. These 20 districts provide services for close to 65,000 students spread over an area of approximately 3,000 square miles. This Santa Barbara County Plan for Educational Services for Expelled Students provides a description of the services that relate directly to expelled students.

District-level alternatives for expelled students will vary from one district to the next depending on the resources available. The geographic location, appropriate grade level, educational needs, and availability of alternative education settings will influence a district's options and policies.

Most school districts in Santa Barbara County provide early interventions to minimize suspensions and expulsions. In Santa Barbara Unified, the many of the district schools have been trained and use restorative justice practices to improve school climate and safety. Schools with smaller student enrollments very rarely expel students. These schools report they have early behavioral interventions and close communication between the school and home.

Educational programs within Santa Barbara County provide numerous alternatives and opportunities for students who are in need of traditional and/or alternative education programs. The larger school districts have been able to offer a broader spectrum of services such as suspended expulsions with placement on a different campus within the district or within an alternative school. The County Office of Education, in agreement with several districts, has been an additional option for expelled students in the North County. With the Local Control Funding Formula, several districts in the county are improving or developing educational alternatives for their expelled, mandatorily expelled, and high-risk students.

The enclosed educational plans, as approved by the local governing boards of the districts, reflects the existing educational alternatives provide to expelled students and high risk students within the respective districts. This plan addresses the countywide gaps in educational services to expelled students, strategies for filling those gaps, alternative placements for students who are expelled, and students who fail to meet the terms and conditions of their plans.

Santa Barbara County School Districts Plan for Expelled Youth

The following districts have board-approved individual district plans which are on file at each district office:

Ballard School District
Blochman Union School District
Buellton Union School District
Carpinteria Unified School District
Cold Spring School District
College School District
Cuyama Joint Unified School District
Goleta Union School District
Guadalupe Union School District
Hope School District
Lompoc Unified School District
Los Olivos School District
Montecito Union School District
Orcutt Union School District
Santa Barbara Unified School District
Santa Maria-Bonita School District
Santa Maria Joint Union High School District
Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District
Solvang School District
Vista del Mar Union School District

Outline of Educational Alternatives Provided by Local School Districts in Santa Barbara County

1. Suspended expulsion with placement on the same school campus;
2. Suspended expulsion with placement on a different school campus within the local District;
3. Suspend expulsion with placement in an alternative school;
4. Suspended expulsion with placement in a district independent study program, if the parent agrees;
5. Expulsion with placement in a district independent study program, if the parent agrees;
6. Home hospital for unique situations, if parent agrees;
7. Expulsion with referral to a District Community Day School Program; or, Expulsion with referral to the Santa Barbara County Community School;
8. Expulsion with the option of enrolling in another school program or adjoining district that will accept the student.

Educational Options for Expelled Youth by District

<i>District</i>	<i>District Options for Expelled Youth</i>
<p>Ballard School District <i>Enrollment: 115</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • suspended expulsion with option to be placed in an independent study program • independent study program <p>District’s small size and remote geographic location limit expulsion options; district experiences very low incidence of behaviors that may lead to a suspension or expulsion.</p>
<p>Blochman Union School District <i>Enrollment: 138</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • suspended expulsion with placement on same campus • suspended expulsion with option to be placed on an independent or home study program <p>District’s small size and remote geographic location limit expulsion options; district experiences very low incidence of behaviors that may lead to a suspension or expulsion.</p>

Educational Options for Expelled Youth

by District continued

<i>District</i>	<i>District Options for Expelled Youth</i>
<p>Buellton Union School District <i>Enrollment: 650</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • placement in another K-6 school setting • suspend expulsion with option to be placed in an independent study program <p>District’s small size limit expulsion options; district experiences very low incidence of behaviors that may lead to a suspension or expulsion.</p>
<p>Carpinteria Unified School District <i>Enrollment: 2,310</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • suspend expulsion with placement on same campus, another district school, or district alternative school • suspended expulsion with option to be placed in an independent study program • suspend expulsion with placement on a different school campus within district for grades K-6 <p>The district reports a history of low incidence of behaviors that require suspension or expulsion.</p>
<p>Cold Spring School District <i>Enrollment: 152</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • suspend expulsion with placement on same campus • suspend expulsion with placement of District Independent Study program • option for parents to enroll student in private school or other school that will accept the student <p>District’s small size limit expulsion options; district experiences very low incidence of behaviors that may lead to a suspension or expulsion.</p>
<p>College School District <i>Enrollment: 228</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • suspend expulsion with placement on different campus in same district • suspend expulsion with placement of District Independent Study program or Home Study program • referral to another public school • referral to a charter or private school <p>District’s small size limit expulsion options; district experiences very low incidence of behaviors that may lead to a suspension or expulsion.</p>

Educational Options for Expelled Youth

by District continued

<i>District</i>	<i>District Options for Expelled Youth</i>
<p>Cuyama Joint Unified School District <i>Enrollment: 321</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • suspend expulsion with referral to District Independent Study program • suspend expulsion with placement on a different school campus within district • placement in alternative site within the district <p>District’s small size and remote geographic location limit expulsion options; district experiences very low incidence of behaviors that may lead to a suspension or expulsion.</p>
<p>Goleta Union School District <i>Enrollment: 3,700</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • suspend expulsion with placement on a different school campus within the district • home instruction
<p>Guadalupe Union School District <i>Enrollment: 1,170</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • suspend expulsion with conditional placement on the same campus • suspend expulsion with referral to District Home Teaching Program if the parent agrees • referral to another public school district, pending agreement with a neighboring district • recommend and/or referral to counseling rehabilitation program as prerequisite to returning to the regular school program before the expulsion term is completed (This would not be paid for by the school district.)
<p>Hope School District <i>Enrollment: 1,020</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • suspended expulsion with placement on a different school campus within the district • suspended expulsion with referral to District Independent Studies
<p>Lompoc Unified School District <i>Enrollment: 9,300</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • home hospital instruction for K-6 students • suspended expulsion with placement on same campus – grades 7-12 • suspended expulsion with placement in District Alternative school • referral to District CDS

Educational Options for Expelled Youth

by District continued

<i>District</i>	<i>District Options for Expelled Youth</i>
<p>Los Olivos School District <i>Enrollment: 730</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • suspend expulsion with placement on same campus • suspend expulsion with placement of District Independent Study program • option for parents to enroll student in private school or other school that will accept the student <p>District’s small size and remote geographic location limit expulsion options; district experiences very low incidence of behaviors that may lead to a suspension or expulsion.</p>
<p>Montecito Union School District <i>Enrollment: 489</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • suspend expulsion and referral to District Independent Study program • home schooling • option for parents to enroll student in private school or other school that will accept the student <p>The district reports a history of very low incidence of behaviors that require suspension or expulsion.</p>
<p>Orcutt Union School District <i>Enrollment: 5,020</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • suspend expulsion with placement on a different school campus within the district • suspend expulsion with referral to District Independent Study program • option for parents to enroll in charter school, private school, home school or another school district which will accept the student • District Home Instruction for unique circumstances
<p>Santa Barbara Unified School District <i>Enrollment: 15,150</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • suspend expulsion with placement on same campus, another district school, or district alternative school • expel with referral to Quetzal • expel with option for parents to enroll student in private school, charter school, adult education, or another school district that will accept the student

Educational Options for Expelled Youth

by District *continued*

<i>District</i>	<i>District Options for Expelled Youth</i>
<p>Santa Maria-Bonita School District <i>Enrollment: 15,039</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for 7th and 8th, referral to Peter B. FitzGerald Community School for 15-16 only • suspend expulsion with referral to District Independent Study program for K-6 students • District Home Instruction for unique circumstances • option for parents to enroll in charter school, private school, or another school district which will accept the student
<p>Santa Maria Joint Union High School District <i>Enrollment: 7,550</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • suspended expulsion with referral to alternative school • suspended expulsion with referral to District Independent Study program if parent agrees • referral to Peter B. FitzGerald Community School for 15-16 only
<p>Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District <i>Enrollment: 1,025</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • suspended expulsion with conditional placement on the same campus • suspended expulsion with placement on Rufugio Continuation High School campus • expulsion with referral to District Independent Study program if parent agrees • referral to community day school
<p>Solvang School District <i>Enrollment: 640</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • suspended expulsion with placement on the same campus • suspended expulsion with placement on District Independent Study program if parent agrees • option for parents to enroll student in private school or other school that will accept the student <p>District's small size limit expulsion options; district experiences very low incidence of behaviors that may lead to a suspension or expulsion.</p>
<p>Vista del Mar Union School District <i>Enrollment: 120</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • suspended expulsion with placement on the same campus • suspended expulsion with placement on District Independent Study <p>District's small size and remote geographic location limit expulsion options; district experiences very low incidence of behaviors that may lead to a suspension or expulsion.</p>

County and district gaps and strategies for filling those gaps

The districts within Santa Barbara County vary greatly in size and are spread over a large geographical area. For some of the county's districts, the geographic location can make it difficult to offer the range of education alternatives often found in larger urban districts. For the smaller districts, because of their small enrollment and ability to respond with district resources, they report not having to expel students. The larger districts are actively seeking better ways to improve school climate and reduce suspensions and expulsions.

County-operated community schools have historically been an option for districts with expelled students. With the changes under the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), county-operated community schools are less likely to be an option for local districts; this has prompted school districts to seek creative options for their expelled youth. One option is for districts is to create an agreement with their neighboring districts for the acceptance of expelled youth. Several of the larger school districts within Santa Barbara County have begun the process of creating new schools and programs to support expelled youth as well as students who are at risk of failing.

Santa Barbara County has identified the gaps that exist in respect to providing educational services to expelled students. What follows is an overview of the identified gaps and the corresponding county/ district strategies for addressing these gaps in educational services.

The school district of residence will continue to maintain responsibility for developing a rehabilitation plan for the student, referring the student to an appropriate educational setting, and ensuring that an educational program is provided to the expelled student.

SERVICE GAPS

Service Gap 1: Limited Number of Educational Options for Expelled Youth

1. With a reduction of community schools available to districts and expelled youth, school districts must either develop their own alternative school programs, or enter into multi-district agreement with a neighboring district or districts to accept expelled students in either a comprehensive or alternative school site. There is a need for regionally-supported school options for expelled youth and students at-risk of failing or dropping out of school. A regional school program may be run by one school district and accept students from the surrounding districts.

Service Gaps 2, 3, and 4:
Small School Districts and Age/Grade Level Need

2. Small school districts within Santa Barbara County generally expel very few students during the course of a school year. It is difficult for the smaller school districts to provide financial support for a regional program when expulsions are rare. Districts are considering multi-district educational alternatives to address the educational needs of expelled youth.
3. Students who are expelled by individual small school districts vary in age, grade level, and expulsion offenses. These factors make it difficult to provide appropriate grade level programs for these students. The smaller districts will consider suspending an expulsion and the student remains on campus, or is referred to another school district that will accept the student, or offer independent study. An expulsion at the elementary level is rare in Santa Barbara County.
4. There are significant geographical distances between many of the small districts; thus, alternative district- or county-operated classroom sites/ programs are often difficult for parents and students to reach. Here again, independent study or home instruction may be the only option for an expelled youth in a remote district.

Appendix

Education Code 48915 (d)

d) The governing board shall order a pupil expelled upon finding that the pupil committed an act listed in subdivision (c), and shall refer that pupil to a program of study that meets all of the following conditions:

- (1) Is appropriately prepared to accommodate pupils who exhibit discipline problems.
- (2) Is not provided at a comprehensive middle, junior, or senior high school, or at any elementary school.
- (3) Is not housed at the school site attended by the pupil at the time of suspension.

Education Code 48915 (f)

(f) The governing board shall refer a pupil who has been expelled pursuant to subdivision (b) or (e) to a program of study which meets all of the conditions specified in subdivision (d).

Notwithstanding this subdivision, with respect to a pupil expelled pursuant to subdivision (e), if the county superintendent of schools certifies that an alternative program of study is not available at a site away from a comprehensive middle, junior, or senior high school, or an elementary school, and that the only option for placement is at another comprehensive middle, junior, or senior high school, or another elementary school, the pupil may be referred to a program of study that is provided at a comprehensive middle, junior, or senior high school, or at an elementary school.

Education Code 48915.01

If the governing board of a school district has established a community day school pursuant to Section 48661 on the same site as a comprehensive middle, junior, or senior high school, or at any elementary school, the governing board does not have to meet the condition in paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 48915 when the board, pursuant to subdivision (f) of Section 48915, refers a pupil to a program of study and that program of study is at the community day school. All the other conditions of subdivision (d) of Section 48915 are applicable to the referral as required by subdivision (f) of Section 48915.

Appendix *continued*

Education Code 48916.1

(a) At the time an expulsion of a pupil is ordered, the governing board of the school district shall ensure that an education program is provided to the pupil who is subject to the expulsion order for the period of the expulsion. Except for pupils expelled pursuant to subdivision

(d) of Section 48915, the governing board of a school district is required to implement the provisions of this section only to the extent funds are appropriated for this purpose in the annual Budget Act or other legislation, or both.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any educational program provided pursuant to subdivision (a) may be operated by the school district, the county superintendent of schools, or a consortium of districts or in joint agreement with the county superintendent of schools.

(c) Any educational program provided pursuant to subdivision (b) shall not be situated within or on the grounds of the school from which the pupil was expelled.

(d) If the pupil who is subject to the expulsion order was expelled from any of kindergarten or grades 1 to 6, inclusive, the educational program provided pursuant to subdivision (b) shall not be combined or merged with educational programs offered to pupils in any of grades 7 to 12, inclusive. The district or county program is the only program required to be provided to expelled pupils as determined by the governing board of the school district.

(e) (1) Each school district shall maintain the following data:

(A) The number of pupils recommended for expulsion.

(B) The grounds for each recommended expulsion.

(C) Whether the pupil was subsequently expelled.

(D) Whether the expulsion order was suspended.

(E) The type of referral made after the expulsion.

(F) The disposition of the pupil after the end of the period of expulsion.

(2) The Superintendent may require a school district to report this data as part of the coordinated compliance review. If a school district does not report outcome data as required by this subdivision, the Superintendent may not apportion any further money to the school district pursuant to Section 48664 until the school district is in compliance with this subdivision. Before withholding the apportionment of funds to a school district pursuant to this subdivision, the Superintendent shall give written notice to the governing board of the school district that the school district has failed to report the data required by paragraph (1) and that the school district has 30 calendar days from the date of the written notice of non-compliance to report the requested data and thereby avoid the withholding of the apportionment of funds.

(f) If the county superintendent of schools is unable for any reason to serve the expelled pupils of a school district within the county, the governing board of that school district may enter into an agreement with a county superintendent of schools in another county to provide education services for the district's expelled pupils.

Appendix continued

Education Code 48926

Each county superintendent of schools in counties that operate community schools pursuant to Section 1980, in conjunction with superintendents of the school districts within the county, shall develop a plan for providing education services to all expelled pupils in that county. The plan shall be adopted by the governing board of each school district within the county and by the county board of education.

The plan shall enumerate existing educational alternatives for expelled pupils, identify gaps in educational services to expelled pupils, and strategies for filling those service gaps. The plan shall also identify alternative placements for pupils who are expelled and placed in district community day school programs, but who fail to meet the terms and conditions of their rehabilitation plan or who pose a danger to other district pupils, as determined by the governing board.

Each county superintendent of schools, in conjunction with the superintendents of the school districts, shall submit to the Superintendent of Public Instruction the county plan for providing educational services to all expelled pupils in the county no later than June 30, 1997, and shall submit a triennial update to the plan to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, including the outcome data pursuant to Section 48916.1, on June 30th thereafter.