

Napa County Plan for Serving Expelled Youth July 1, 2009-June 30, 2012

Introduction

This plan is presented to specify the Napa County response to the requirements of Education Codes 48926 and 48916.1. These code sections stipulate that school districts in the county are responsible to provide educational services to all expelled students and that the county office is responsible for developing a written plan, in cooperation with districts, reflecting how these services will be provided. All District Superintendents and the County Superintendent of Schools must approve this plan. The essential content of the relevant code sections are as follows:

48916.1

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.

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.

Any educational program provided may not be situated within or on the grounds of the school from which the pupil was expelled. This subdivision, as it relates to the separation of pupils by grade levels, does not apply to community day schools offering instruction in any of kindergarten and grades 1 to 8, inclusive, and established in accordance with Section 48660.

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 may not be combined or merged with educational programs offered to pupils in any of grades 7 to 12, inclusive.

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.

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 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.

Napa County Office of Education Alternatives for Expelled Students

The Napa County Office of Education (NCOE), through its Juvenile Court and Community School (JCCS) program has been the provider of educational services for most of the expelled students within Napa County for many years. These services have been provided in terms of a continuum of educational care that is consistent with the Education Code.

As per Education Code section 1981, Students may be referred to county-operated Community Schools for the following reasons:

- 1.) Students who are expelled from a school district for any reason other than those specified in subdivision (a) or (c) of Section 48915.
- 2.) Referred to county community schools by a school district as a result of the recommendation by a school attendance review board or pupils whose school districts of attendance have, at the request of the pupil's parent or guardian, approved the pupil's enrollment in a county community school.
- 3.) Probation-referred pursuant to Sections 300, 601, 602, and 654 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.
- 4.) On probation or parole and not in attendance in any school.
- 5.) Expelled for any of the reasons specified in subdivision (a) or (c) of Section 48915.
- 6.) Homeless children.

The school district of residence, under all circumstances, continues to maintain responsibility for developing a rehabilitation plan for any expelled student, for referring the student to an appropriate educational setting and for ensuring that an education program is provided either within or outside of the school district. The Napa County Office of Education is one option the school districts may use for placement of expelled students.

The philosophy and service preferences of each individual school district affects how the Napa County Office of Education's Court, Community and Alternative School program meets the needs of students expelled from that school district. Some school districts use the county office programs as an educational option for those students expelled under a

“no tolerance” policy, while others use the program as a student assistance or placement alternative. The county office program is thus a permissive educational program that provides local school districts with the following educational options for expelled youth.

Community Schools:

Liberty High School: Three self-contained high school classrooms are offered, each providing a minimum of 240 instructional minutes per day. These classes provide structured programs for behavioral redirection and academic achievement. They are intended to reduce the students’ future contact with the court system as well as his or her need for special services by related agencies. The schools provide a program focusing on behavior modification, esteem building, impulse control/anger management and acceptance of responsibility for personal choices. The schools provide technology based classroom instruction, vocational training and academic remediation. All students work towards the attainment of a high school diploma, GED or CHSPE. Each school district is responsible for providing special education services to students from their districts that are referred to the JCCS program.

Liberty Special Day Class (SDC) provides services to 12 expelled and/or probation referred students who are determined to need an SDC placement by their Individual Education Plan team. NCOE provides a special education credentialed teacher for this classroom. The provision of other special education services is determined in conjunction with the SELPA.

Wolfe High School: This day treatment center provides a wide array of services including education, social service/mental health, probation supervision, drug/alcohol counseling, anger management counseling and recreational activities. Students must be evaluated by the Wolfe Center program prior to admission. Students who are assessed at a level 2.5 needing intensive drug and/or alcohol treatment may be admitted to the program contingent upon both program and school approval. Students who are suspended or expelled for drug/alcohol related offenses may benefit from services provided. The school in this facility serves 22 students in grades 9-12. The Wolfe Center also provides drug and alcohol treatment and related services to other students enrolled in other classrooms in the JCCS program at the individual campuses.

Chamberlain High School: This school provides an individualized alternative school environment for students who are on formal probation, many whom are expelled. It is a nonresidential school program operated cooperatively by the NCOE and Juvenile Probation Department. A full time probation officer and full time counselor also provide services to students in the program. Students participate in extensive community volunteer projects, paid work experience and Napa Valley College courses.

Creekside Middle School: This program offers placement to 20 students in grades 7-8 who are expelled from school districts, referred by county or district SARB’s or the Juvenile Probation Department. Students in this self-contained classroom also receive support and supervision from the Napa County Probation Department.

Independent Study: The independent study program combines home study via individualized learning contracts with students and their parents. Each student meets with a credentialed teacher for a minimum of one hour per week and is assigned an individualized educational contract equivalent in time to five days of full time class attendance. Assignments are completed at home and reviewed by the teacher weekly for progress towards academic goals and credits. Student contracts may also include opportunities for volunteer community service, work experience, and Napa Valley College coursework. Special education services are provided through the referring school district. Independent Study/Home Study is an educational option; however, all students must have access to classroom-based instruction.

Alternative Schools:

Project HOPE: This program, built around an independent study model, provides educational services to youth in grades 7-8 through a home-study program. Parents and students meet weekly with the teacher. The goal is to provide sequential educational experiences, based upon the state standards, which enable all students to realize their full potential.

Court Schools:

Per Education Code section 48645.1, the county office of education operates Juvenile Court Schools for any juvenile hall, juvenile home, day center, juvenile ranch, juvenile camp, or regional youth educational facility.

Crossroads School: This school serves youth who are incarcerated at Juvenile Hall in Napa County. There is currently one classroom, serving students in all grade levels. Curriculum is designed to closely approximate the student's existing educational program to facilitate so the student can be successfully reintegrated into their regular classrooms upon discharge. This program may expand if student enrollment exceeds the number of students who can be served in one classroom. Special education services are provided by NVUSD with the exception of psychological services which are provided by NCOE. Title 1, Neglected and Delinquent funding, provides additional support services at this school site.

District Educational Alternatives for Expelled Youth

In addition to the services for expelled youth offered by NCOE, the school districts may offer services to expelled youth through the operation of Community Day Schools. At this time, Napa Valley Unified School District is the only district operating such programs. These programs include the following:

Horizons: Serves students in grades 9-10

Archways: Students in grades 6-8

These schools are designed for at-risk students who have experienced behavioral and attendance difficulties that have resulted in school suspensions, SARB hearings or expulsions. The students attend a minimum 6-hour school day in a self-contained classroom, with a low student to adult ratio. The standards-based academic curriculum is comparable to the district comprehensive school campuses.

As per Education Code section 48662 these district operated Community Day Schools will give first priority to students expelled pursuant to subdivision (d) of section 48915, second priority goes to students who are expelled for other reasons and third priority will be for other students who meet the criteria for enrollment in Community Day Schools including probation referrals or SARB referrals or other district level referral processes.

Students who are expelled from County Office of Education programs may be referred to district Community Day School programs, Court Schools or the County operated Independent Study program. Enrollment in the county-operated Independent Study program is contingent upon parent approval. Special education students may utilize the independent study option only with the approval of their Individual Education Plan team prior to enrollment. Students who fail to meet the terms of the independent study contract will be referred to a classroom placement either in a district operated Community Day School program, county operated Community School or Court School.

Gaps in the current plan and strategies for filling the gaps:

- 1.) In Napa County, there is not a classroom option for students in grades K-5 who are expelled from school district programs. If students in grades K-5 are expelled, Napa Valley Unified School District will consider re-opening Steps to Success, an elementary Community Day School. Students from the up valley school districts may place students in this program through agreement with NVUSD.
- 2.) If students in grades 11-12 are expelled from county-operated programs, there is not a district-operated Community Day School classroom option for these students.
- 3.) Often, classrooms are full and are not available for students who are expelled from district or county operated programs. Students may be referred to independent study programs if parents approve; however, independent study is not always an appropriate placement for English Learners, Special Education

students, students whose parents do not agree to an independent study option or other students who are unable to succeed in independent study programs.

Since the 2007-08 school year, NVUSD and NCOE representatives have been meeting regularly to address several areas of concern related to student expulsions. Several strategies have been implemented that will address gaps in the plan. These include the following:

- 1.) Students who are on suspended expulsions will remain in their current school placement rather than being referred to county programs.
- 2.) NVUSD is exploring the feasibility of operating self-contained educational and intervention programs on regular school sites that will be utilized for students who are at risk of expulsion.
- 3.) NVUSD is reviewing their current expulsion policy in order to reduce the number of students referred for expulsion.
- 4.) Students who are in NVUSD who fail to meet the terms of a formal reprimand contract will be referred to site level intervention programs rather than being expelled when feasible.
- 5.) NVUSD and NCOE are reviewing the process and criteria for a student's referral back to the district to facilitate easier transition back to district programs. NVUSD and NCOE will participate in programs to increase the capacity for staff and students to address behavioral issues on the school campuses.

This agreement is contingent upon approval of Memorandum of Understandings (MOU's) between each school district with NCOE for the provision of services. If a mutually agreed upon MOU is not in place, the provision of services for expelled students will be offered by the district of residence and a revision to this plan will be submitted to the state.

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Napa County Office of Education

Date

Dr. John Glaser, Superintendent
Napa Valley Unified School District

Date

Florence Eaton, Principal/Superintendent
Pope Valley Union School District

Date

Allan Gordon, Superintendent
St. Helena Unified School District

Date

Jeffrey W. Johnson, Superintendent
Calistoga Joint Unified School District

Date

Tom Stubbs, Principal/Superintendent
Howell Mountain School District

Date