Napa County Plan for Serving Expelled Youth  
July 1, 2015-June 30, 2018  

Introduction  

This plan is presented to specify the Napa County response to the requirements of Education Codes 48926 and 48916.1, and to the State’s established priority under the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) for county offices to coordinate the instruction of expelled pupils. 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 school boards and the county office board of education 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. 

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 State 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.

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.

Community Day 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 are required to 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 must 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.

Currently, there are no Community Day Schools operating in any of the school districts in Napa County.
Gaps in the current plan and strategies for filling those gaps:

1.) There are no classroom options for students in grades K-6 who are expelled from school district programs. Commencing in the 2015-16 school year NCOE will offer a classroom placement in Creekside in addition to the already existing independent study option for students in grades K-6. This agreement is contingent upon an approved MOU with each district regarding bill back for cost of this service.

2.) There are no Community Day Schools in operation at this time. Students who are expelled from NCOE must remain in the NCOE programs.

3.) Occasionally, classrooms are full and are not available for students who are expelled. 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.

Several strategies have been implemented that have lowered the number of expulsions. 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 has implemented intervention programs on regular school sites that will be utilized for students who are at risk of expulsion. This includes a PBIS Positive Behavior Implementation System “BEST” that has been implemented in the NVUSD and NCOE programs.

3.) Data will be tracked on student disciplinary processes at NVUSD and NCOE using the SWIS program. Data is disaggregated by gender, race and ethnicity. These reports will be evaluated yearly for any issues of disproportionality.

4.) NVUSD has reviewed their current expulsion policy and has reduced the number of students referred for expulsion.

5.) Students who are in NVUSD who fail to meet the terms of a formal reprimand contract are referred to site level intervention programs rather than being expelled when feasible. They may also be referred to the NCOE Community School program.

6.) 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.

7.) NCOE is implementing a special class for students who are meeting criteria to return to school districts that help them prepare for re-entry. This will be coordinated with the school districts.

Results of these changes:
Expulsion rates from all the school districts have decreased dramatically over the past two years. In addition, disciplinary actions at NCOE have also decreased significantly due to the PBIS intervention programs and other strategies.
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.

_________________________________________________________
Barbara Nemko, Superintendent                                      Date
Napa County Office of Education