Amador County Plan

For Expelled Youth

2018 – 2021
Education Code References

Education Code §48926
As required by AB 922 (Chapter 974, Statutes of 1995; E.C. 48926), the County Superintendent, in conjunction with district superintendent, developed a plan for providing education services to all expelled students in the county. The plan shall enumerate existing educational alternatives for expelled pupils, identify gaps in educational services to expelled pupils, and provided 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.

AB 992 requires the County Superintendent, in conjunction with the district superintendent, to submit a triennial update to the plan to the Superintendent of Public Instruction on June 30th thereafter. The next update will be due June 30, 2021. This plan reflects the 2018 update.

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 educational program is provided to the pupil who is subject to the expulsion order for the period of the expulsion, but 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 with 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) If the pupil who is subject to expulsion order was expelled from any grades 7 to 12, inclusive, the school district or the County Superintendent of Schools may offer the pupil who is subject to the expulsion order independent study in order to satisfy the requirements of subdivision (a). In order to offer independent study to a pupil who is subject to an expulsion order and in addition to any other requirements set forth in Article 5.5 (commencing with Section 51745) of Chapter 5 of Part 28 for independent study, the parent or guardian of the pupil and the pupil shall provide the written consent for placement in independent study. A school district or the County Superintendent of Schools shall notify the expelled pupil of the option of classroom instruction pursuant to paragraph (7) of subdivision (c) of Section 51747.
(f) The school district shall maintain data for reporting to the State Department of Education pertaining to:
   1) The number of pupils recommended for expulsion
   2) The grounds for each recommended expulsion
   3) Whether the pupil was subsequently expelled
   4) Whether the expulsion order was suspended
   5) The type of referral made after the expulsion
Details

Amador County Unified School District is committed to providing educational opportunities for all of our students that fit the continuum of care and academic rigor evident in all of our programs.

Amador County has a small number of students who experience behavior patterns or incidents for which expulsion is necessary. While this is a positive aspect to our early intervention strategies – it creates a situation where the development of either district or county specific classes or programs for expelled students becomes not only a geographical but a financial challenge.

Amador County strives to be pro-active in the recognition of problems in students and to offer interventions that include student study teams, academic and emotional assessments, parent support meetings, in-school suspension, off-campus suspension, special education services, after school activities, conflict management, and student behavior and discipline contracts.

Existing Educational Alternatives for Expelled Youth

Amador County Unified School District/Amador County Office of Education offers the following options for expelled youth:

1. Suspended expulsion with placement on his/her home school campus under formal terms of: probation, rehabilitation, behavior contract and attendance.
2. Suspended expulsion with placement on a different campus under formal terms of: probation, rehabilitation, behavior contract and attendance.
3. Suspended expulsion with placement on District Contracted Independent Study; with parent approval.
4. Expulsion with referral to the Amador County Office of Education Community School Program.
5. Expulsion with referral to the Amador County Office of Education Contracted Independent Study; with parent approval.
## Analysis of Placement Options

### 2018 Analysis

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<tr>
<th>GAP</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Progress</th>
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<td>In ACOE 2013-2016 Plan for Expelled Youth the following was identified: A student could be expelled from the District under Education Code §48915 and be referred to a Community School Program. This student could then commit another violation of Education Code §48915, or simply not attend, and ultimately be referred back to the original District.</td>
<td>Instead of sending the student back to the original school, expulsions are extended by one semester to allow for additional rehabilitation time. Non-public out of county programs are also considered as an alternative. Another effort to help mitigate this problem is that ACOE works closely with our Psychology and Counseling Departments as well as outside counselors and behavior specialists through Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency or Nexus Youth &amp; Family Services. Behavior management and Anger Prevention programs are a large part of our program and work to help students successfully modify their behavior and make better behavioral choices. Parents are also counseled by the administration, and a part of positive decision making. Finally, an engaging interactive curriculum with dynamic teachers has aided in attendance and behavior problem modification. We identified early on the need for the best, most accomplished teachers to provide our instruction at our Community Court School. This has worked wonders in closing the achievement gap.</td>
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<td>Students who are expelled from our one school district within our County Office of Education vary as to age, grade level, and expulsion offenses. The wide range of age, grade-level, and seriousness of offense make it difficult to provide appropriate programs for them within our small county program.</td>
<td>More work is being done at the site level within the Amador County Unified School District to avoid expelling students. We have very few mandatory expulsions and work with our teachers, administrators and counselors to catch troubled behavioral patterns and change them before trouble occurs. Our Principal of Educational Options, calls parents and counsels both parents and students. We have increased counselors, and trainings in social emotional, restorative justice and trauma informed practices for staff.</td>
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<td>There are significant geographical distances between sites within our district and County Office programs, thus county operated classroom sites/programs for Amador County Unified School District would require either extensive busing, which is not financially feasible for the county, or parent provided transportation, which is often impossible for the parents.</td>
<td>Every effort is made to transport students to Community Court School. County program was moved from Plymouth to a central location on the Educational Options campus. Independent study programs are offered to families on a voluntary basis.</td>
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Younger students are being expelled. These younger students cannot attend the programs designed for middle and high school students. The numbers of these elementary school expelled youth are growing, but generally are not enough to develop an elementary school classroom or program.

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<th>Intensive Intervention program developed at one of our elementary schools to support district needs with these younger students. Special academic arrangements are made with the full support and cooperation of parents.</th>
<th>No longer a gap due to Intensive Intervention class.</th>
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<td>The Community Day School option for expelled students, as described in current California Education Code, is difficult for Amador County to develop due to the following: The six (6) hour, or 360 minute day exceeds the required hours that a regular third, fourth, fifth or sixth grade students is required, by the California Education Code, directed to attend. The separation of students in grades K-6 from students in grades 7-8 also creates boundaries that will be financially and/or geographically difficult.</td>
<td>We have a Fact Finding Committee currently working to address these issues.</td>
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Placement/Rehabilitation Plans

A Rehabilitation Plan shall be developed by the district for every expelled student grade 6-8 and 9-12 who is referred to the County Community School Program or a District Community Day School. Part of this plan will include a review of district rehabilitation directives to be completed prior to readmission to the school district of residence including goals related to behavior and social-emotional concerns.

Community Court School is responsible for developing, directing, and implementing rehabilitation plans for expelled students and for students with suspended expulsions, including readmission approval/hearing at the conclusion of the expulsion period. All expelled students will be provided special education services as specified in their IEP.

Staff from the County Superintendent of Schools Office, in conjunction with the County Probation Department and the referring school district will collaboratively develop alternative strategies for those Community School students who have difficulty meeting the terms of their rehabilitation plan or who continue to pose a danger to other students.

Strategies for Addressing Identified Gaps in Service

The strategies for addressing the identified gaps in education alternative service for expelled youth are:

1. Research and implement ways by which students can access CORE curriculum via online classes or other distant learning opportunities.
2. Work with County Behavioral Health and other psych/social care professionals and organizations to work with the whole student and explore ways in which individual student needs can better be met.
3. Truly individualize placement and rehabilitation plans, with emphasis on the latter, to ensure that the causes of misbehavior are addressed.
4. Establish more private and public partnerships.
5. Continue with the Intensive Intervention Class
6. Use existing County Community School as a source of service for students
7. Provide a modified program that meets the needs of the students through a change in hours of attendance or any range of educational option unique to the student’s needs.
8. To consider Independent Study as an instructional alternative for those students not on probation who pose a danger with the school setting, or those whose parents agree that this instructional strategy fits the expelled student’s needs and a rehabilitation plan is developed showing this; no individual with exceptional needs as defined in section 56206 may be placed in an independent study program unless his or her individualized education program (IEP) developed pursuant to Article 3 commencing with Section 56340 or Chapter 4 of Part 30 specifically provided for such participation.
9. Adhere to the established intake/exit procedures for all students attending any school or county operated program, including accountability of the rehabilitation plan requirements.
10. Adhere to a transition plan that will assist students in the return to the regular education program.
Additional Information

Budgetary Concerns

Amador County Office of Education provides a placement option for expelled students and students referred by the School Attendance Review Board (SARB) in grades 9-12.

LCAP Connections

Local Control Accountability Plans must address the needs of students referred by the School Attendance Review Board and Expelled students. Districts need to ensure they are conducting sub group analysis, particularly as it relates to suspensions.

Signed copy on file with district and sent to California Department of Education

[Signatures]

District Superintendent

County Superintendent

9-26-2018
Date

9-26-2018
Date