

**Amador County
Office of Education**



Plan for Expelled Youth

2021 – 2024

Table of Contents

Overview3

Educational Alternatives Provided in Amador County3

Summary of Data.....4

Review of Gaps and Strategies Identified in the Countywide Plan.....4

Strategies For Addressing Identified Gaps in Service5

Placement and Rehabilitation Plans.....5

Strategies For Ongoing Improvement 2021-2024.....6

Additional Information.....6

Appendix: Education Code 48916.17

Overview

Education Code 48926

As required by AB 922 (Chapter 974, Statutes of 1995; E.C. 48926), the County Superintendent, in conjunction with district superintendent, shall develop 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 provide 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 of the plan to the Superintendent of Public Instruction on June 30th thereafter. The next update will be due June 30, 2024. This plan reflects the 2021 update.

Educational Alternatives Provided in Amador County

Amador Unified School District / Amador County Office of Education (ACUSD / ACOE) are 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 Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) 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 proactive in the recognition of problems in students and to offer interventions that include student study teams, academic and emotional assessments, parent support meetings, individual and/or group counseling, in-school suspension, off-campus suspension, special education/504 services, after school activities, conflict management, and student behavior and discipline contracts.

ACUSD / ACOE 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.

ACOE operates County Community School located in Sutter Creek, CA. County Community School serves students in grades 7-12 who have been expelled by ACUSD, or referred by probation. The goal of County Community School is to provide a positive alternative education choice for students and families. The County Community School emphasizes academic achievement, application of concepts and skills to real world settings, rehabilitation in preparation to re-enter the comprehensive school setting, and career exploration and college preparation. In addition, ACOE will operate a voluntary Independent Study (IS) program. ACUSD / ACOE facilitate regular meetings in order to coordinate services for expelled students. There is a clear referral and transition process for students entering and exiting ACUSD / ACOE programs. ACUSD / ACOE have agreed to award and accept partial credits for any student entering or exiting County Community School.

Summary of Data:

- Suspension rate:
 - “All Students”: 5% for 2019-2020 (decreased .7% from 2018-19)
 - English Learners: 0.7% (Decreased by .2%)
 - Foster Youth: 3% (Decreased 8.4%)
 - Socioeconomically Disadvantaged: 7.4% (Maintained status)
 - American Indian: 2.7% (Decreased 2.6%)
 - Hispanic: 1.9% (Decreased 1.9%)
 - Two or More Races: 6.4% (Increased .6%)
 - Homeless: 3.7% (Decreased 4.7%)
 - White: 5.3% (Decreased .6%)
 - Students with Disabilities: 8% (Decreased 3%)
- Expulsion rate:
 - It is to be noted that for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years, a total of 2 students have been expelled from ACUSD schools to the ACOE County Community School.
 -

Review of Gaps and Strategies Identified in the Countywide Plan

Review of Gaps 2018-2021

1. A student who has been expelled from a district under E.C. 48915 (c) and referred to the Amador County Community School program could commit another violation of E.C. 48915 (c).

Strategy: A student who commits another violation of E.C. 48915 (c) will be expelled from any County Community School and offered an Independent Study (IS) option (with parent/student consent) through ACOE. If the student fails to perform the conditions set forth in the IS contract, ACOE will refer the student back to their district of residence in order to determine additional education options.

Were the strategies successful? At this time, there have been no expelled students who have committed another violation of E.C. 48915 (c) while enrolled in County Community School.

2. 2018 Gap: Students in elementary grades who are expelled have fewer educational options than students expelled in secondary grades.

Strategy: A change of placement or IS programs are offered to elementary age students with placement contingent upon Board of Trustees or parent/student consent.

Were the strategies successful? This remains a successful strategy. The strategy was not implemented because no need or circumstances arose to trigger its use since the 2018 plan was issued.

Identifying and Outlining Gaps of 2021-2024

1. Amador County USD generally expels very few students during the course of the year. Providing a county program for expelled students is not fiscally sound.

Strategy: Continue to operate the ACOE County Community School program including both seat-based and Independent Study (IS) options.

2. County Community School is not accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Strategy: Begin the WASC accreditation process during the 2021-2012 school year and attain WASC accreditation status within the term of this plan.

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 distance learning opportunities for independent study students.
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 options 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 to 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.

Placement and Rehabilitation Plans

A "Terms of Attendance / 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. 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.

County Community 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 ACOE, in conjunction with the County Probation Department and the referring school district will collaboratively develop alternative strategies for those County 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 Ongoing Improvement 2021-2024

Continued collaboration with the AB 922 group in quarterly meetings to discuss:

- Behavior intervention practices at both site and district levels with a focus on options to:
 - Minimize the number of suspensions leading to expulsions
 - Minimize the number of expulsions being ordered
 - Support students returning from expulsions
- How those practices relate to any disproportionate representation of minority students in such interventions.

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 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



District Superintendent

6/29/2021

Date



County Superintendent

6/29/2021

Date

Appendix:

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:

- The number of pupils recommended for expulsion
- The grounds for each recommended expulsion
- Whether the pupil was subsequently expelled
- Whether the expulsion order was suspended
- The type of referral made after the expulsion