

NEVADA COUNTY
PLAN FOR PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
TO EXPELLED STUDENTS

Approved by the
Nevada County Board of Education
and the
School District Governing Boards

Clear Creek
Chicago Park
Grass Valley
Nevada City
Nevada Joint Union High School District
Pleasant Ridge Union
Pleasant Valley
Ready Springs Union
Twin Ridges
Union Hill

June 2012

Nevada County Superintendent of Schools
Holly A. Hermansen

SIGNATURES OF THE SUPERINTENDENTS BELOW SIGNIFY PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAN

Clear Creek _____ Date: _____

Chicago Park _____ Date: _____

Grass Valley _____ Date: _____

Nevada City _____ Date: _____

Nevada Joint Union High School District
_____ Date: _____

Pleasant Ridge Union _____ Date: _____

Pleasant Valley _____ Date: _____

Ready Springs Union _____ Date: _____

Twin Ridges _____ Date: _____

Union Hill _____ Date: _____

COUNTYWIDE PLANS FOR PROVISION OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO EXPELLED STUDENTS

The 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. The 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.

Education Code 48926 provides specifically that the plan:

- Shall enumerate existing educational alternatives for expelled pupils
- Identify gaps in educational services to expelled pupils
- Identify strategies for filling those gaps
- 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 addition, the plan must address behavioral intervention approaches used to minimize the number of suspensions and expulsions.

Due to the many changes to services to expelled students in Nevada County over the last two years, this plan has significant revisions.

PREVENTION, BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS AND APPROACHES

Each of the 10 school districts in Nevada County are committed to providing early intervention services to students in a variety of ways that are intended to ensure the success of all students and reduce the number of suspensions and expulsions. Some of the services and interventions provided by school districts to address the diverse needs and provide opportunities for success include individualized instruction, counseling, small group instruction, behavior support plans, student success teams, academic and emotional assessments and special education supports and services.

In addition, through the Safe Schools / Healthy Students initiative, extensive training and curriculum has been provided to each school district to help reduce school violence, increase social skills, improve school climate and address individual student needs. Behavioral health therapists are available on school sites to provide needed mental health services and parenting classes are provided through 4 school-based Family Resource Centers. At the high school district, intervention classes for at-risk students

and a crisis counselor are available. School resource officers, probation officers and a truancy officer help to provide needed services to at-risk students.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIES OUTLINED IN SERVICE GAPS

The following gaps were identified in the 2009 Plan for Provision of Services to Expelled Students. Following each gap is a discussion of the implementation of strategies that were identified to fill the gaps. Were the strategies successful? If not, what were the obstacles? What additional strategies were implemented? Were they successful?

Gap 1: Students enrolled in grades 6-8 who commit an expulsion offense during an expulsion period may have limited alternatives that remain available for placement.

2009 Plan: The Nevada County Plan continues to provide an educational opportunity for students enrolled in grades 6-8 by providing a placement alternative for expelled students, regardless of repeated offenses, at the 3R Community Day School (CDS). Expelled students who fail to meet the terms and conditions of their rehabilitation plan may remain at the 3R CDS.

2012 Update: This strategy was initially successful, but due to changes over the last couple of years, it was no longer an effective option for expelled 6th-8th grade students. The 3-R Community Day School was previously operated utilizing community day school teachers from three school districts and the county superintendent of schools operated the program. Due to Tier 3 flexibility funding, and other issues, the three districts closed their community day schools and the program decreased in size to one teacher, in a community day school operated by the county office of education, serving the most at-risk 6th – 8th grade students at an isolated site as a school site was not available. It is the opinion of the administration that this program has not been effective this year.

Gap 2: Students who are expelled in grades K-5 do not have the same educational alternative available, as do students in grades 6-8.

2009 Plan: The elementary districts strive to pursue alternative placement for grades K-5 through community day school services, as well as utilizing individual and/or small group instruction. Alternative strategies are developed for those students who have difficulty meeting the terms and conditions of their District designed rehabilitation plan.

2012 Update: This gap continues to exist, and the strategies indicated are still in place. The strategies are successful for the most part, as very few students in grades K-5 are expelled and the local districts are able to serve the students.

Gap 3: Each school district is responsible to insure appropriate educational service to expelled students.

2009 Plan: Nevada County Superintendent of Schools and its 10 school districts work collaboratively to create relevant and effective options assuring that expelled students' educational needs are met. Attached is a copy of the current MOU for a Countywide Plan signed by the District and County Superintendents.

2012 Update: The school districts and the county office continue to work together to make sure that the needs of expelled students are addressed.

CURRENT EDUCATIONAL ALTERNATIVES FOR EXPELLED STUDENTS

The current educational services for students that are expelled are as follows:

Students who are expelled will be referred to an educational program deemed appropriate by their governing board. The school district is responsible for developing a Rehabilitation Plan for the student and ensuring that an educational program is provided to enable the student to meet the goals in the plan. The determination of the educational program will be dependent on the facts in each case. Districts may create an individualized plan for students, including suspending the expulsion and providing an educational program on a school site, operate their own community day schools or refer students to programs operated by the county superintendent of schools office.

The Rehabilitation Plan needs to include specific goals that the student must attain before returning to the district. Students who are expelled on a drug related offense will be required to participate in drug testing and this will be included as part of the districts rehabilitation plan.

In addition, educational programs available for expelled students include the following:

Grades K-6: Local school districts design individualized programs for students in the lower grades. Independent study may be offered for those students whose parents consent. A district may work with other districts to serve their students.

Grades 7-12: Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office will operate Earle Jamieson Educational Options. The program will consist of the following options for expelled students grades 7-12:

- A full day school program for students grades 7-12 with a focus on the younger grades (7-9).
- A full day program option for students grades 7-12 focusing on upper grades (10-12)

- A 7th -12th grade blended educational model that offers students independent study and online learning options. This program is available for those students whose parents consent.

GAPS IN EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO EXPELLED STUDENTS

Gap 1: Students enrolled in grades K-6 have very few educational alternatives available and no county alternative education program for districts to refer students to. In addition, there are currently no district operated community day schools.

Strategies:

1. Districts can explore options to work with other districts to serve expelled youth.
2. Districts can utilize their local alternatives to provide educational programs for expelled students, including independent study if the parent consents.
3. If the numbers of students in these grades that need services increases, the county office and school districts will work collaboratively to create other options.

Gap 2: Student in grades 7-12 who have been expelled have limited educational alternatives. There are no district operated community day school options in Nevada County.

Strategies:

1. The county superintendent of schools will operate two county community schools and a community day school to provide an educational alternative for expelled students in grades 7-12.
2. Districts can explore options to work with other districts to serve expelled students.
3. Districts can utilize their own local alternatives to provide an educational placement for expelled students in grades 7-12 including independent study with the parents consent.

Gap 3: Students expelled from their school district and placed in alternative programs could be unsuccessful in the program or commit further expellable offenses and need to be expelled or removed from that alternative program.

Strategies:

1. Students placed in the alternative education program will receive educational, behavioral and emotional supports to help them to be successful in the program.
2. If the student continues to be unsuccessful or commits a new expellable offense after interventions and supports have been provided, the alternative education program staff will meet with the district to discuss options. Options may include returning to the district, enrolling in another district, considering placement in another county, enrolling in a different alternative educational program in Nevada County, or independent study with the parents consent.

The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools and the school districts in Nevada County have discussed services for expelled students and considered the options available within our county. The program options and services available for students will be reviewed on an annual basis.