

NEVADA COUNTY
PLAN FOR PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
TO EXPELLED STUDENTS


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

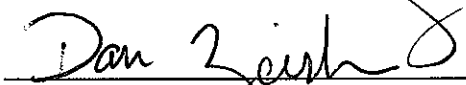
Clear Creek School District
Chicago Park School District
Grass Valley School District
Nevada City School District
Nevada Joint Union High School District
Pleasant Ridge Union School District
Penn Valley Union Elementary School District
Twin Ridges Elementary School District
Union Hill School District


June 2015


Nevada County Superintendent of Schools
Holly A. Hermansen

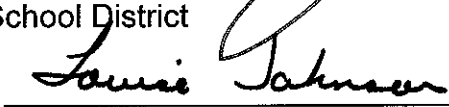
**SIGNATURES OF THE SUPERINTENDENTS BELOW SIGNIFY
PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAN**


Clear Creek  Date: 4/16/15

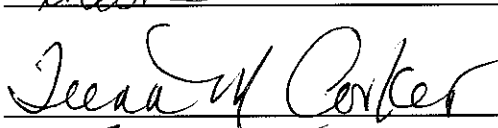
Chicago Park  Date: 4-16-15


Grass Valley  Date: 4/16/15

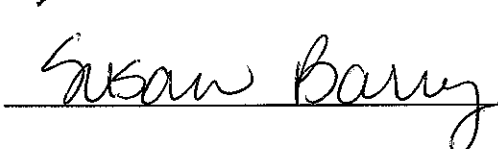
Nevada City  Date: 05/19/2015

Nevada Joint Union High School District
 Date: 5-20-15

Pleasant Ridge Union  Date: 4/16/15

Penn Valley Union  Date: 4-16-15

Twin Ridges  Date: 4/16/15

Union Hill  Date: 4/16/15

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.

EXISTING SCHOOL DISTRICT ALTERNATIVES FOR EXPELLED PUPILS

Each school district shall take steps to see that services are provided for pupils who have an expulsion have been expelled. A pupil whose behavior has resulted in expulsion shall be given a rehabilitation plan that is designed by the district of residence. The Rehabilitation Plan needs to include specific goals that the student must attain before returning to a comprehensive school setting. Any recommended placement should be monitored and appropriate documentation maintained.

The governing board of each school district will determine which educational alternatives are appropriate and available. Educational alternatives throughout Nevada County for pupils recommended for expulsion include, but are not limited to, the following options:

- Expulsion, suspended order, with placement on the same campus.
- Expulsion, suspended order, with placement on a different school campus within the district.
- Expulsion, suspended order, with placement in district independent study, if the parent consents.

- Expulsion with referral to a district community day school, if available.
- Expulsion with subsequent transfer to another district.
- Expulsion with referral to the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools alternative programs at Earle Jamieson Educational Options (Grades 7-12).

PREVENTION, BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS AND APPROACHES

Each of the 9 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.

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 3 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.

The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office convenes a Special Multi-Agency Resource Team (SMART) each week to meet the needs of families in crisis within our community. The identified team focus is: "Keeping our kids safe, healthy, at home, in school, and out of trouble". SMART consists of representatives from the following agencies: Child Protective Services, Public Health, Juvenile Probation, Behavioral Health, Victor Community Support Services, EMQ Families First, Sierra Forever Families, appropriate school representatives, and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of such students.

Additionally, in 2014, the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office began a program to train all county schools in Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) to assist districts in developing and implementing a multi-tiered system of behavioral interventions on their campuses.

Student Support Services

Nevada County Superintendent of Schools partners with several community agencies to provide support and services to the students and families at Earle Jamieson Educational Options Community School (Edge and Launch). Our partner agencies include Children's Behavioral Health Services, Nevada County Probation, Victor Community Support Services, Child Protective Services, and Community Recovery Resource (CORR). Services include, but are not limited to:

- Aggression Replacement Training (ART)
- Non-violent Crisis Intervention Training (for staff)
- Gang Resistance Education and Training (Summer GREAT program)
- SMART Team meetings
- Health Education

GAPS IN EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO EXPELLED STUDENTS

There are three potential gaps in providing a comprehensive service model for expelled students in Nevada County as identified in the 2012 plan. The districts and Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office must work to develop solutions that are both educationally sound and financially possible.

1. **2012 Identified Gap and Strategy:** 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.
 - a. 2012 Strategy:
 - Districts can explore options to work with other districts to serve expelled youth.
 - Districts can utilize their local alternatives to provide educational programs for expelled students, including independent study if the parent consents.
 - 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.
 - b. 2015 Update: Although two of our elementary districts currently provide an alternative setting for students in grades 5-8 who are unsuccessful in the comprehensive middle school setting, this gap still exists as a need in our county for our younger students. The strategies listed above have been effective and will continue for 2015- 2018.

2. **2012 Identified Gap and Strategy:** Students in grades 7-12 who have been expelled have limited educational alternatives. There are no district operated community day school options in Nevada County.
 - a. 2012 Strategy:
 - 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.

- Districts can explore options to work with other districts to serve expelled students.
- Districts can utilize their own local alternatives to provide an educational placement for expelled students in grades 7-12 including independent study with the parent's consent.

b. 2015 Update:

- The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools currently operates two county community schools to provide an educational alternative for expelled youth in grades 7-12. Due to the new LCFF funding model and the fact that the County Community School now houses the Community Day School students in grades 7-12, the superintendent of schools office is no longer operating a county community day school.
- Districts can explore options to work with other districts to serve expelled students, including Charter Schools.
- Districts can utilize their own local alternatives to provide an educational placement for expelled students in grades 7-12, including independent study with the parent's consent.

3. **2012 Identified Gap and Strategy:** 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.

a. 2012 Strategy:

- Students placed in the alternative education program will receive educational, behavioral and emotional supports to help them to be successful in the program.
- 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 parent's consent.

b. 2015 Update:

- Students placed in the alternative education program will receive educational, behavioral, and emotional supports to help them to be successful in the program.
- If a student does not successfully complete the rehabilitation/readmit plan within the expulsion period, and/or a new offense has occurred at the alternative setting, then 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, an appropriate charter school, or independent study with the parent's consent.

COUNTY EDUCATIONAL ALTERNATIVES FOR EXPELLED STUDENTS

Process of Referral

When a district determines that an appropriate educational option does not exist within the district for an expelled pupil or otherwise at-risk pupil in grades 7 - 12, the district may refer the student to the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools alternative education program, Earle Jamieson Educational Options (EJ). The county will review the district Rehabilitation Plan and referral in order to develop an individual learning program for each student based on their individual needs and circumstances. Parents will be included and expected to work cooperatively in addressing the needs of their children. Earle Jamieson (EJ) will provide the student with bus passes to the public transportation system (Gold Country Stage) if necessary.

The referring district shall provide the following documentation at the time of referral for enrollment:

- County referral form, signed by superintendent or designee
- Expulsion Rehabilitation Plan
- Attendance and discipline information
- Current transcript
- Most recent assessment data
- IEP/504 Plan (if applicable)

Expelled students referred to EJ from the districts are under the Rehabilitation Plan developed by the district and will be held accountable to both the district and the county. For all students referred to EJ, if the placement does not result in meeting the needs of the student, or the student commits an offense that preclude their continuing at EJ, the EJ staff will:

- Refer the student to the local law enforcement agency or probation if appropriate.
- Inform and refer the student to their home district to find appropriate placement.
- Inform the family of the option of attending a charter school in or out of the county.
- Offer the student the option of enrolling in independent study (if applicable).

Earle Jamieson Educational Options will provide districts with progress reports and notification of a pupil's change of residence, termination from the program, or completion of requirements for graduation. District administrators will be provided data necessary to meet requirements associated with Education Code 48916.

Special Education

Any student referred to EJ that has an active IEP, must present a copy of his/her most recent IEP upon registration. The referring district will hold a change of placement IEP prior to sending the student and invite the appropriate EJ staff to the meeting. At the meeting, the IEP team will determine how the provisions of the IEP will be implemented at EJ. It is anticipated that the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office and the Special Education staff of the referring district will coordinate efforts to determine the most appropriate placement and continuity of the IEP implementation.

Should it become necessary to reevaluate the appropriateness of services and/or placement as mandated in a student's IEP while attending EJ, representatives from the referring district shall be invited to participate in any meeting where change of services or placement will be discussed.

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 and aligned with the county LCAP goals.