

NEVADA COUNTY
PLAN FOR PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
TO EXPELLED STUDENTS

Approved by the
Nevada County Board of Education

June 2018

Nevada County Superintendent of Schools
Scott W. Lay

COUNTYWIDE PLANS FOR PROVISION OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO EXPELLED STUDENTS

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 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).

Educational programs within Nevada County provide a variety of opportunities for students who are in need of traditional and/or alternative education programs. Local LEA's offer a continuum of services and broad range of program options within their respective schools. The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office operates a County Community School for students in grades 7 – 12.

Each district provides a comprehensive system of intervention strategies which include, but are not limited to, Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS), Restorative Practices, Student Success Teams, behavior panels, on-site intervention classroom, behavior support staff, academic and social-emotional supports, in-school suspensions, progressive discipline system, student/parent/school contracts, referrals to Children's Behavioral Health, SMART referrals, and involvement with community agencies.

There are students whose behavior constitutes grounds for discipline and possible referral for expulsion from school. The district may, and in some case is required to, recommend expulsion to their governing board. Each district is responsible to provide each student with a district rehabilitation plan clearly defining what the student must do before returning to the district.

Nevada County Superintendent of Schools

The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools (NCSOS) offers an educational alternative through the County Community School. Earle Jamieson Educational Options requires referrals from the school or probation. NCSOS maintains a standing policy of accepting students in grades 7 - 12 who have been expelled by their district of residence, providing there is space available and the needs of the student can be met. While NCSOS attempts to serve as many of the referred students as possible; it is not required to take any students and may not be able to serve all students who are referred.

Earle Jamieson Educational Options works to meet the challenging needs of their students through a variety of specialized programs including:

- Classroom based seat time or independent study programs
- Individualized learning plans
- Counselor on site
- Small class sizes
- High teacher/staff to student ratio
- PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports)
- Credit recovery opportunities
- Career Technical Education and guidance
- Trauma based care
- Aggression Replacement Training

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 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.

The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office offers professional development and resources to each school district to help increase school safety, increase social skills, improve school climate and address individual student needs. Behavioral health therapists are available on some 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, Sierra Forever Families, appropriate school representatives, and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of such students.

Additionally the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools offers free training to all county schools in Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) to assist districts in improving school climate and developing a multi-tiered system of supports for implementation 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. 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)
- SMART Team meetings
- Health Education
- Drug/Alcohol Diversion

GAPS IN EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO EXPELLED STUDENTS

A current needs assessment along with the information provided in the 2015 plan was used to identify three potential gaps in providing a comprehensive service model for expelled students in Nevada County. The districts and Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office must work to develop solutions that are both educationally sound and financially possible.

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

- a. Strategy:

- o Districts can explore options to work with other districts to serve expelled youth.
 - o Districts can utilize their local alternatives to provide educational programs for expelled students, including independent study if the parent consents.
 - o 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.

Update: One of our elementary districts currently provides 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. The strategies listed above will continue

2. Identified Gap: 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. Strategy:

- The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools currently operates a county community school to provide an educational alternative for expelled youth in grades 7-12. 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.

Update: This gap still exists as a need in our county. The strategies listed above will continue.

3. Identified Gap: 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. Strategy:

- Students placed in the alternative education program will receive educational, behavioral, and emotional supports to help them 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, or enrolling in a different alternative educational program in Nevada County, an appropriate charter school, or independent study with the parent's consent.

b. Update:

- The strategies listed above will continue for 2019 – 2021.

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 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
- Current transcripts, including student's progress toward meeting the graduation requirements of the district of residence including any relevant information (ie: adjusted graduation requirements or plan to be a fifth year senior).
- Attendance and discipline information
- Immunization records
- Most recent assessment data

- IEP/504 Plan (if applicable)
- Information from any interventions provided for the student
- The date on which the student will be eligible to return to the district of residence

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 precludes 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

Consistent with state and federal law, a student with exceptional needs (who has a current IEP or 504 plan) may be expelled and referred by a school district for placement in the NCSOS County Community program. Enrollment will be determined on an individual basis, and is dependent on the appropriateness of placement and services available at Earle Jamieson Educational Options (EJ) to meet the individual needs of the student as stated in the current IEP or Section 504 plan. 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 referring the student and invite the appropriate EJ staff to the meeting. At the meeting, the IEP team will determine if EJ is an appropriate placement and how the provisions of the IEP will be implemented at that site. 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.

- I. Provision of related services through the NCSOS Alternative Education Program
 - NCSOS provides:
 - Special Education teacher with Mild/Moderate credential (.6 FTE)
 - Paraprofessional support (25 hours/week)
 - School counselor (.8 FTE)

- Each student's LEA of residence must provide any related service required by a student's IEP that is not available through NCSOS.

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.

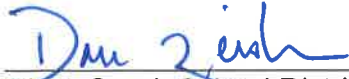
High School Credits Awarded at Earle Jamieson Educational Options

- The school district of residence shall calculate and provide all credits earned by the student, *including partial credits* for the portion of the current semester attended in the school district, to EJ.
- EJ awards credits to high school students in accordance with the rules and regulations governing court and community schools. If the student does not earn full credits, partial credits will be awarded for the time of attendance at EJ.
- The school district of residence shall accept any and all partial credits awarded to the student by any school district or EJ.
- EJ complies with California Assembly Bills 1806 and 2306 for students who are homeless, foster youth, or have attended a juvenile court school.
- A student who completes the Earle Jamieson Educational Options graduation requirements during the term of their enrollment at EJ shall be awarded a regular high school diploma by EJ and exited from the NCSOS program. This diploma shall be recognized by the student's school district of residence as a regular high school diploma.

Coordination with Districts

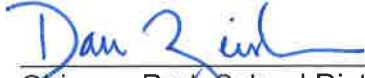
The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools and the school districts in Nevada County benefit from an ongoing partnership and collaborative spirit as they work to provide educational options for expelled students. The program options and services available for students will be reviewed on an annual basis and aligned with the county LCAP goals.

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



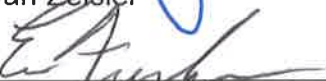
Clear Creek School District
Dan Zeisler

Date: 5-17-18



Chicago Park School District
Dan Zeisler

Date: 5-17-18



Grass Valley School District
Eric Fredrickson

Date: 5-17-18



Nevada City School District
Trisha Dellis

Date: 5/17/18



Nevada Joint Union High School District
Louise Bennicoff Johnson

Date: 5/17/18



Penn Valley Elementary School District
Torie England

Date: 5/17/18



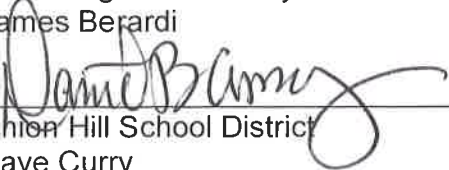
Pleasant Ridge Union School District
Rusty Clark

Date: 5/17/18



Twin Ridge Elementary School District
James Berardi

Date: 5/17/18



Union Hill School District
Dave Curry

Date: 5-17-18