

# **SANTA CLARA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION**

## **COUNTYWIDE PLANS FOR EXPELLED STUDENTS**



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Transforming Education through Leadership, Service, and Advocacy

## **Santa Clara County Office of Education**

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For questions about individual district expelled youth plans, please contact the school district directly.

For questions about services offered to expelled youth by the Santa Clara County Office of Education, please contact David Putney at the number above.

For questions about expulsion and/or placement appeals, please contact Suzanne Carrig, SCCOE, at (408) 453-6869.

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### **Santa Clara County Office of Education District Plans**

#### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICTS .....

- Alum Rock Union
- Berryessa Union
- Cambrian
- Campbell Union
- Cupertino Union
- Evergreen
- Franklin-McKinley
- Lakeside
- Loma Prieta
- Los Altos
- Los Gatos Union
- Luther Burbank
- Moreland
- Mountain View-Whisman
- Mt. Pleasant
- Oak Grove
- Orchard
- Saratoga Union
- Sunnyvale
- Union

#### HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICTS .....

- Campbell Union
- East Side Union
- Fremont Union
- Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union
- Mountain View-Los Altos Joint Union

#### UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICTS.....

- Gilroy
- Milpitas
- Morgan Hill
- Palo Alto
- San Jose
- Santa Clara

## Santa Clara County Office of Education

The Santa Clara County Office of Education offers educational alternatives to expelled students through court and community schools. Court schools require the formal placement of students into the program by the juvenile court or its probation/parole department representatives. These programs can be either residential or non-residential and expulsion status of a student has no negative impact on eligibility or placement. Community school enrollment may require referral from the school district of residence and these schools provide services to students in accordance with California Education Code 1981 (a) and 1981 (c). School districts in Santa Clara County enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Santa Clara County Office of Education to provide educational programs with a chargeback formula. Expulsion status of a student has no negative impact on eligibility or placement of a student in community schools but may be used for classification purposes (California Education Code 1981). Students can be referred to the community school for a daily program, blended learning, and or Independent Study through an intervention process to include but not limited to: Student Attendance Review Team, Student Attendance Review Board, discipline meeting, or through the expulsion process.

Educational alternatives offered by the Santa Clara County Office of Education include the following:

### Court Schools\* (*Placement by non-education agency may be required*)

Osborne

Blue Ridge

### Community Schools

Sunol grades 7-12

Independent Study 7-12

*\* Placement by non-education agency may be required*

# **PLAN FOR PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO ALL EXPELLED STUDENTS IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY**

California Education Code Section 48926 states “each county superintendent of schools in counties that operate community schools pursuant to Section 1980, in conjunction with superintendents of school districts within the county shall develop a plan for providing education services to all expelled pupils in that county.” This section of California Education Code also states that “The plan shall enumerate existing educational alternatives for expelled pupils, identify gaps in educational services to expelled pupils, and strategies for filling those gaps.

The 20 elementary districts, 5 high school districts and 6 unified school districts of Santa Clara County provide services to 266,256 students at 395 school sites spread over an area of 1,315 square miles. Santa Clara County recognized the need for a continuum of educational services for all students, including expelled students long before the 1995 legislation mandated educational placements for expelled students. This Santa Clara County Plan for Educational Services for Expelled Students provides the description of the part of that continuum of services that relates directly to expelled students. A series of legislative bills in 1995, and since 1995, have created new challenges that have resulted in adjustments and refinements to this Santa Clara continuum of educational services over the past ten years. This 2018 triennial update of the Santa Clara Countywide Plan for Expelled Students will highlight these changes to the educational landscape for this student population.

California Education Code 48916.1 states “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...” Every Santa Clara County school district governing board will refer each expelled student to an appropriate educational placement for the period of expulsion. The educational placement will be determined on an individual basis by the school district’s governing board based on 1) seriousness of the offense, 2) available educational alternatives and 3) other related factors. County level alternatives for expelled students will remain available to most expelled students. Any expelled student who requires, and is entitled to, transportation to the county-level educational placement may have that transportation provided by the district of residence. District level alternatives for expelled students will vary from one district to the next depending on the characteristics of that district. The list of educational alternatives that exist for each of the 31 Santa Clara County districts is identified in that district’s sub-plan, included as a part of the total countywide plan.

A district sub-plan has been developed and board approved, if necessary, for every school district in Santa Clara County. Those district sub-plans are included in this countywide plan to provide the complete “Plan for Providing Educational Services to all Expelled Students in Santa Clara County.” Any substantive changes to district sub-plans during the period between triennial updates receive approvals by the school district governing board at the time the change is made. Each district sub-plan includes 1) a list of existing educational services to expelled students, 2) gaps in educational services to expelled students, 3) strategies for filling those gaps and 4) alternative placements for students who fail community day school placements (if offered in your district).

## EXISTING EDUCATIONAL ALTERNATIVES FOR EXPELLED STUDENTS

All educational alternatives provided by California's school districts are not available to all expelled students and most are not available to any expelled students. Seriousness of offense, location of offense and grade level of the student all has the potential to restrict the district level educational alternatives available to the student during the period of expulsion. Students expelled for any of the offenses listed in Subdivisions (a) or (c) of Section 48915 of the California Education Code shall not be permitted to enroll in any district-operated program during the period of expulsion unless it is a community day school (California Education Code 48915.2). All expelled students shall be referred to an educational placement that is 1) not provided at a comprehensive middle, junior or senior high school or any elementary school and 2) not housed at the school site attended by the student at the time of the offense (California Education Code Section 48915). If the expelled student is in grades K-6, the educational placement for the student shall not be merged or combined with educational programs offered to students in grades 7-12 (California Education Code Section 48916.1). In addition to the above listed requirements, such factors as district size, district level alternatives, county level alternatives and district philosophy can impact the determination by a district board of education of what educational alternatives are appropriate for the students who are expelled.

Alternatives available for expelled pupils in districts include the following:

- Suspended expulsion with placement at a different district campus (within or outside of the district)
- Home teaching
- Non-public school placement
- District Community Day School
- Independent Study Program

The Santa Clara County Office of Education works collaboratively with all districts to ensure timely communication and responsiveness to our students' needs. The transition office serves as a hub for all student referrals and interacts with district liaisons on a regular basis. Monthly district liaison meetings are hosted to address professional development needs and service coordination.

## **GAPS IN EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO EXPELLED STUDENTS AND STRATEGIES FOR FILLING THOSE GAPS 2018-2021**

The gaps identified in 2018 in educational services to expelled students remain a focus for Santa Clara County. We continue to work with staff, districts, students and families to mitigate their impact.

1. The size of the districts in Santa Clara County varies greatly. There is everything from small elementary districts with one school and 44 students to larger school districts with 57 schools and over 32,000 students. Some districts are located in rural areas and others in the urban center of the county. This variance makes it difficult to offer the range of alternatives to all districts. The strategy for addressing this problem is to maintain a county community school program that is committed to providing educational services to the school districts in the county and that employs a variety of instructional strategies, including those that are capable of overcoming obstacles associated with providing educational services to rural often isolated settings

In an effort to ease the enrollment process and to decrease the time it takes to enroll into the community school, district will provide a SCCOE enrollment form to referred students at the time of referral. Thereafter, the student and family will either contact the community school and or the community school transition office will make contact to set up an enrollment meeting. At the enrollment meeting the student will be enrolled into the community school and be provided their first level of academic support that may include but not limited to: academic assessments, welcome instructional assignments, meet with the principal and support staff, and receive their class schedule.

2. Students who commit an expellable offense during an expulsion period may have limited alternatives available for a secondary placement. The strategy for addressing this problem is to maintain a commitment to providing educational services to students regardless of repeated offenses and to ensure that disproportionate representation doesn't occur when students exhaust resources.

One strategy is that students may be returned to their school district of residence to provide an educational program placement, another strategy that has been employed at the county-level programs is to provide intense training to educational staff that improves their skills at diffusing potentially volatile situations with students, and decreasing the likelihood of a problem escalating to an expellable level. In addition, Independent Studies/Blended Learning opportunities may be offered to serve expelled youth within the community school program.

3. Students in grades K-6 who are expelled do not have the same educational options available as do their counterparts in grades 7-12. Students in grades K-6 are expelled at a much lower rate than students in grades 7-12. These two factors, together with the requirement that

educational services for students in grades K-6 cannot be merged or combined with services to students in grades 7-12, make it very difficult to identify an educational placement for the expelled student who is in grades K-6. The strategy for addressing this problem is to develop a cooperative plan for maintaining a multi-district educational alternative capable of serving this smaller, more isolated student population between school districts. The Santa Clara County Office of Education works with districts to ensure communication and collaboration occurs to ensure that expelled youth have their educational needs addressed. A gap of under-funding for K-6 services in county community schools is a barrier. It is important to work with the California Department of Education to increase funding to establish and maintain an educational alternative for expelled students in grades K-6.

4. Transportation and funding continue to be gaps for our countywide Expelled Students Plan. Many of our families cannot access the educational opportunities because of a lack of finances. Funding for community schools continues to be low and requires that Santa Clara County Office of Education to operate on a chargeback system to our participating districts. To ensure that a community school program is being provided the allotments have increased significantly to allow proper staffing at the community school to serves expelled youth. It is difficult to anticipate the need county wide and therefore, the allotments allows the county to start the school year with at least a small community school program. We will continue to explore opportunities for additional funding to address these gaps.

The community school is being consolidated to one school site to ease the financial cost of the program and to ensure that there is a community school for the foreseeable future. Since the geographical area of the county is very large, traffic patterns are some of the most congested within the state, and the length of public transportation to the school site from our two largest feeder districts can vary from a couple minutes to well over an hour, the County Office of Education is exploring an early start and a late start to the school day to ease the transportation issues for students and offer more flexibility for school attendance. In addition, the referring school district will provide bus tokens to students for the first two weeks of school. Thereafter, COE and support providers will provide bus tokens to ensure that students have access to stable transportation.

5. Best practices identified by Santa Clara districts include the following practices:
  - Positive Behavior Interventions Support (PBIS)
  - Multi-tiered System of Support (MTSS)
  - Response to Intervention (RTI)
  - BEST Behavior Program
  - Opportunity Program
  - Coordination and implementation of multiple community resources, such as California Youth Outreach (CYO), Parents Helping Parents Project, drug and alcohol counseling, and job development
  - Community liaisons
  - Counselors, psychologist support
  - Character building programs

6. Districts continue to focus on disproportionate representation of minority students in interventions. Based on 2016-17 data, Latino male students represent 74% of our community schools population. In Santa Clara County, Latino males represent approximately 38% of the student population. Strategies to address this concern include differentiation, individualization, use of an equity lens in the planning and development of culturally relevant activities and ongoing professional development for staff to ensure employees are culturally sensitive and linguistically proficient.

## **ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENTS FOR STUDENTS WHO FAIL COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL PLACEMENTS**

The court and community school programs operated by the Santa Clara County Office of Education maintains commitment of accepting most students who have been expelled from their district of residence and who have exhausted all of the alternatives offered by the district. If an initial placement is made to a district operated community day school and the student commits and expellable offense or fails the program, the "District Name" School District Board of Education shall review the plan of rehabilitation that was established at the time of expulsion and make the adjustments necessary. If there is no educational alternative in the "District Name" School District, the student may be referred to the county community school program.

For students in the Santa Clara County community schools who have recommitted an expellable offense, the Santa Clara County Office of Education works closely with the district, probation, families and school officials to determine the next phase of support. Options are limited to Independent Study, modified curriculum and school day, and/or incarceration. If all of these options are exhausted an expelled student may be referred back to their home district to explore additional options. Additionally, the Santa Clara County Office of Education is developing a hybrid alternative blended learning/independent study program for 2018-19 school year which will combine multiple resources and options for students, based on their individual learning plan.

