

**EL DORADO COUNTY  
PLAN FOR PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL  
SERVICES TO EXPELLED STUDENTS**

**APPROVED BY THE EL DORADO COUNTY  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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**El Dorado County Office of Education  
Vicki L. Barber, County Superintendent**

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## **OVERVIEW**

Educational programs within El Dorado County provide excellent opportunities for students who are in need of traditional and/or alternative education programs. Local school districts offer a broad spectrum of service augmented by El Dorado County Office of Education programs, providing a continuum of services to expelled youth.

Early intervention strategies on comprehensive school sites, alternative programs on and off comprehensive school sites, and/or referral to the El Dorado County Office of Education programs respond to student diversity and community needs providing opportunity for academic success for all kindergarten-twelfth grade public school students living in El Dorado County.

Each district provides intervention strategies which include, but are not limited to, counseling, student study teams, academic and emotional assessments, parent trainings, in-school suspensions, off-campus suspensions, Special Education services, after school activities, and student/parent/school contracts.

There are students whose behavior constitutes grounds for discipline and possible referral for expulsion from school. The District may, and in some cases is required to, recommend expulsion to the Governing Board for those students whose behavior endangers other students and/or staff. In addition, each district and the County Office of Education participates with law enforcement agencies in a Memorandum of Understanding dealing with student behaviors.

Each student whose behavior has resulted in expulsion is given a Rehabilitation Plan that is designed by the District explaining the conditions the expelled student must meet in order to return to the District.

### **Education Code 48926**

*Each county superintendent of schools in counties that operate community schools pursuant to Section 1980, in conjunction with superintendents of the school districts within the county, shall develop a plan for providing education services to all expelled pupils in that county. The plan shall be adopted by the governing board of each school district within the county and by the county board of education.*

The plan shall enumerate existing educational alternatives for expelled pupils, identify gaps in educational services to expelled pupils, and 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.

*Each county superintendent of schools, in conjunction with the superintendents of the school districts, shall submit to the Superintendent of Public Instruction the county plan for providing educational services to all expelled pupils in the county no later than June 30, 1997, and shall submit a triennial update to the plan to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, including the outcome data pursuant to Section 48916.1, on June 30th thereafter.*

### **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.*

The approval of the El Dorado County Board of Education and submission of the plan to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction prior to June 30, 1997 and 2003 satisfies requirements associated with the "county plans for provision of educational services to expelled students." In addition, this plan shall be distributed to every district superintendent in El Dorado County and updated prior to June 30, 2006, as required by law.

### **El Dorado County Office of Education Alternatives**

The El Dorado County Office of Education provides educational options for expelled students. The programs described fit the continuum of educational care as outlined. The philosophy of each individual school district affects how the El Dorado County Office of Education will meet the needs of that particular school district. Some school districts use the El Dorado County of Education program as an educational option for those students expelled under a district "no tolerance" policy, while others use this program as a student assistance or placement alternative. The community school is a permissive educational program that provides local school districts with educational options for their expelled youth.

The El Dorado County Office of Education Charter Community School, Charter K-6 Community Day School, and Placerville Union School District K-6 Community Day School offer the following options for expelled youth:

- 1) Community School offers daily educational programs that meet for 300 minutes per day in community school classrooms, located throughout El Dorado County.
- 2) Community Day Schools provide a daily educational program that meets for 360 minutes per day at the County Office of Education and at the Placerville Union School District Office.
- 3) Contracted study programs that require students in Kindergarten through twelfth grades to complete a minimum of 2030 hours of educational product, weekly
- 4) Computer assisted and/or on-line academic courses (remedial to adult levels)
- 5) Community Service/Service Learning options
- 6) ROC/P Technical programs
- 7) School-to-Career Options
- 8) G.E.D., C.H.S.P.E. options
- 9) Counseling options through New Morning Youth and Family Services and El Dorado County Mental Health and Health Department
- 10) Cal-SAFE for pregnant and parenting teens

### **El Dorado County School District Alternatives**

All educational alternatives provided by California's school districts are not available to all 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 subdivision 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 (E.C. 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 offense (E.C. 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 (E.C. 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 Governing Board as to which educational alternatives are appropriate for students who are expelled.

### **Gaps in Educational Services to Expelled Students and Responsive Strategies**

1. District enrollment in El Dorado County ranges from approximately 20 students, at rurally located one room schoolhouses, to more than 7,000 students at our largest school district. There are 15 school districts in El Dorado County. This smaller district size, together with the rural characteristics of the county, make it difficult to offer the range of alternatives often found in the larger urban districts. The strategy for addressing this problem is to maintain a county community school and community day school programs that are committed to providing educational services to all school districts in the county employing a variety of instructional strategies, including those that are capable of overcoming obstacles associated with providing educational services to rural, often isolated settings.
2. Students who commit an expulsion offense during an expulsion period may have limited alternatives that remain available for placement. The strategy for addressing this problem is to maintain a commitment to providing educational services to students, regardless of repeated offenses, at regional county community school and/or community day school sites.
3. Students who are expelled in grades K-6 do not have the same educational alternatives available as students in grades 7-12. Students in grades K-6 are also 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 difficult to identify an educational placement for the expelled K-6 student. However, to better meet the needs of these K-6 students, El Dorado County Office of Education established a K-6 Community Day School in the 2006-2007 school year. The program, which is located at the County Office of Education provides educational services to students in grades 4-6, while a K-6 Community Day School operated by the Placerville Union School District provides education options for students in grades K-3.

4. In all cases, each school district is responsible to insure appropriate educational service to its expelled students. El Dorado County Office of Education and its 15 school districts work collaboratively to create relevant and effective options assuring that expelled students' educational needs are met.

### **County and District Alternative Placements**

Expelled students who fail to meet the terms and conditions of their rehabilitation plan may be referred to a different district school, a district community day school, or the El Dorado County Office of Education Charter Community School or Community Day School Program.

Students who are expelled will be referred to an educational program deemed appropriate by the District Governing Board. The District continues to maintain responsibility for developing a Rehabilitation Plan for the student and ensuring that an educational program is provided.

The Charter Community School and Community Day School Programs maintains a standing policy of accepting all students who have been expelled by their district of residence. Expelled students who are referred to the El Dorado County Office of Education Charter Community School Program will have an Individual Learning Plan developed including the student, parents and Charter staff. Part of this plan may include a goal of returning to the district of residence. Each District is responsible to provide each student with a district expulsion plan clearly defining what the student must do before returning to the District. Individual Learning Plans and strategies are regularly reviewed by Charter staff. Alternative strategies may be developed for those students who have difficulty meeting the terms and conditions of their District designed rehabilitation plan.