

**CARMEL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
CARMEL, CALIFORNIA**

2021 - 2024 EXPULSION PLAN

**Existing Educational Alternatives for Expelled Students and Strategies for Improvement the Next Three Years
(2021 - 2024)**

- **What are the current educational alternatives for expelled pupils?**

The educational alternatives will be specific to the disciplinary violations for students by which, the Governing Board is making the decision to expel the student from the District. The educational alternatives may include, but are not limited to:

- A stipulated expulsion with specific guidelines which the student will have to follow within the stipulated agreement for expulsion.
- Counseling that addresses the specific need(s) of the student.
- When appropriate, placement at the Carmel Valley High School for students 16 years and older.
- Implementation of a behavior contract that is created and agreed upon with all parties relevant to the disciplinary action.
- Continued check-in and check-out sessions with the school counselor or social worker.
- When appropriate, an agreed partnership between a local charter school and the district so the student can continue their education in a separate location.

The Monterey County Office of Education offers educational alternatives to expelled students in grades 9-12 through its court and community schools.

The court school requires the formal placement of students into the program by the juvenile court or its probation department representatives. This program can be either residential or non-residential and the expulsion status of a student has no negative impact on eligibility or placement.

The community school requires a referral from the school district of residence and provides services to students in accordance with Education Code 1981a and 1981c. The expulsion status of a student has no negative impact on eligibility or placement of a student in the community school but may be used for Education Code 1981 classification purposes.

When appropriate, the Carmel Unified School District that county-operated court or community schools will be an appropriate placement for all expelled students in grades 9-12 from the Carmel Unified School District.

- **Identify gaps in educational services to expelled pupils?**

Carmel Unified School District has very few students who are expelled from year to year. Therefore, the need and ability to coordinate a full program would not be fiscally feasible. In addition, due to the geographical size of the district encompassing over 594 square miles, it can be challenging for a few students who need to attend a specific program if there is no available transportation.

- **Outline strategies for filling those service gaps?**

The strategy for addressing this problem is to maintain a commitment to providing educational services to students, regardless of repeated offenses. These services may be in locations where the distance factor is not a serious obstacle. An educational alternative will be created if the necessary commitment exists with the student and parent.

Students in grade K-6 who are expelled do not have the same educational options available to them as to their grade 7-12 counterparts. Students in grades K-6 are rarely expelled. These two factors, together with the requirements 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 educational placement options for the expelled student who is in grades K-6. The strategy for addressing this problem is to develop a cooperative plan for maintaining educational services through the district with the parent and student. In addition, the district will work in partnership with community-based alternative educational

settings, such as charter schools, to provide access to education and services. The community-based alternative educational settings would be afforded to students in grades 6 - 12.

What alternative placements exist for expelled students placed in district community day school programs, but fail to meet the terms and conditions of their rehabilitation plan, or, who pose a danger to other pupils?

In the District's previous three-year plan, the gaps noted were the challenges for students to attend a program due to distance from the students home to the program. Due to the challenges and gaps, the District worked closely with the Board of Trustees to focus on more preventative interventions for students, as well as, recommending stipulated expulsions when appropriate, that documented the implementation of therapeutic alternatives to address the core issue of a students behavior. An analysis of the strategies appears to suggest that the alternative strategies have been appropriate and effective.

Site and District Level Behavioral Intervention Practices to Minimize Suspensions and Expulsions

In 2019-2020, the District implemented an Opportunity Program at Carmel Middle School. The Opportunity Program is a structured program that uses data to identify students who could benefit from participating in the program. The program implements goal-orientated, self-reflective activities at the beginning and the end of the school day. The contact with the student is facilitated by two credentialed instructors who are provided the resources by the administration, to specifically support the students. In addition, the students participate in field-trips to build positive relationships, social skills, and leadership skills.

At Carmel High School, a diverse school-based team is developing an Intervention Action Plan grounded in data, to identify students early in order to align interventions based on need. The high school will be targeting students that are displaying academic challenges and will scale-up social-emotional and behavior indicators over time. In addition, for first-time offenders who violate the substance abuse policy, the High School continues to implement the Power Forward anti-drug/alcohol and decision-making counseling program. By participating in the Power Forward program, a student's suspension will be reduced from 5 days to 2 days after fully completing the program.

Coordination Practices Between Carmel Unified and MCOE in Providing Educational Placements for Expelled Youth

The Carmel Unified School District maintains a close relationship with MCOE. Once the Board of Trustees determines that a student is expelled from the district, and if the Board of Trustees indicates the best placement to complete his/her rehabilitation plan is within an MCOE placement, the designee to the Superintendent will notify MCOE to submit a referral to initiate the placement process.

The Carmel Unified School District will continue to focus on utilizing best-practice behavioral interventions, as well as exhausting all alternatives to suspension when responding to student discipline.

BOARD APPROVED:

Sara Hinds, Board President

Date

Trisha Dellis, Interim Superintendent

Date