

<p>PLAN FOR PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO ALL EXPELLED STUDENTS IN ORANGE COUNTY 2015 - 2018</p>

General Provisions

As required by Education Code 48926, the Orange County Superintendent of Schools has developed an expulsion plan in conjunction with the Superintendents of the school districts in Orange County. The plan provides for educational services to all expelled students in the county for school years 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18. The current plan has been adopted by the governing board of each school district in Orange County and the Orange County Board of Education. A student whose behavior has resulted in an expulsion is provided a rehabilitation plan which ensures placement in an educational program. All educational alternatives provided by Orange County school districts are not available to all expelled students. The type of offense, location of offense, grade level and nature of the student's individualized needs all have the potential to affect the 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) appropriately prepared to accommodate students who exhibit discipline problems; 2) not situated at a comprehensive middle, junior, or senior high school, or at any elementary school, and 3) not housed at the school site attended by the student at the time of the offense (E.C. 48915). In addition to the requirements stated above, such factors as district size, district level alternatives, county level alternatives, local control accountability plans and district philosophy can influence the decisions by a district board of education regarding what educational alternatives are appropriate for the students who are expelled.

Educational Alternatives for Expelled Students

The governing board of each school district will determine which educational alternatives are appropriate and available pursuant to Education Code section 48916.1. Educational alternatives throughout Orange County for students recommended for expulsion include, but are not limited to the following options:

1. Expulsion, suspended order, with placement on the same school campus [E.C. 48917 (a)].
2. Expulsion, suspended order, with placement on a different school campus within the district [E.C. 48917 (a)].
3. Expulsion with referral to a district community day school program, if available [E.C. 48660].
4. Expulsion with subsequent transfer to another district.
5. Expulsion with referral to the Orange County Department of Education, Division of Alternative, Community and Correctional Education Schools and Services (ACCESS) [E.C. 1981].

A specific referral to a district community day school or county community school is made by the school district with recommendations from the district discipline review board, School Attendance Review Board (SARB), or by another established district referral process as required by statute.

The school district of residence maintains the responsibility for developing a rehabilitation plan for expelled students and referring students to an appropriate educational setting. Expelled students who complete their rehabilitation plan obligations are reviewed by the district for possible return to district of residence programs. Expelled students who fail to meet the terms and conditions of the district rehabilitation plan for readmission may continue to be referred to an appropriate educational setting within another district alternative program, district community day school program, or the Orange County Department of Education ACCESS program.

Charter School Requirements and Expulsion

Charter schools develop their own policies and procedures regarding student expulsion and student dismissal. They are not required to follow Education Code section 48900 et seq. as the basis of their discipline or expulsion policy. Charter schools have the option to adopt their chartering district's policy and procedures in regard to expulsion and may include the option of an appeal to the County Board of Education.

A student who is expelled from a charter school returns to the jurisdiction of the school district of residence. As set forth in Education Code section 47605 (d)(3), if a pupil subject to compulsory full-time education pursuant to Education Code section 48200 is expelled or leaves a charter school without graduating or completing the school year for any reason, the charter school shall notify the superintendent of the school district of the pupil's last known address within 30 days, and shall, upon request, provide that school district with a copy of the cumulative record of the pupil, including a transcript of grades or report card, and health information.

Expelled Students Who Commit Subsequent Violation(s)

The placement of expelled students who commit subsequent expellable violations will be placed in one of the following options:

- If the student commits a subsequent violation of Education Code 48900, the student may be referred to another district alternative program or to the Orange County Department of Education.
- If the expelled student commits another violation of the Education Code while enrolled in the Orange County Department of Education ACCESS program, the student will be placed at another community school site within the Administrative Unit (AU) or transferred to another AU operated by the Orange County Department of Education, in accordance with Orange County Department of Education Policy and Procedures.

Expelled Students Who Fail District Community Day School

An expelled student who fails his/her placement in a district community day school program may be placed in one of the following options:

- Other existing district educational alternatives.

- Orange County Department of Education, ACCESS program or a program operated by the Orange County Department of Education Division of Special Education Services.

Special Education Students

Students eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) may be referred to the Orange County Department of Education pursuant to the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process outlined in Education Code section 48915.5 and Orange County Department of Education procedures. Students eligible under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 may also be referred to the Orange County Department of Education program in accordance with Section 504 procedures. School districts must take into consideration the contents of the student's IEP when making placement recommendations. Any change in placement requires the school district to convene an IEP meeting. The IEP team identifies a special education program and related services appropriate for the student. Placement options may include district, special education local plan area (SELPA), or county-operated programs.

- If the district refers the expelled student to the Orange County Department of Education, the district shall convene an IEP meeting prior to the referral to jointly identify an appropriate special education program and related services. A representative from the Orange County Department of Education shall participate in the IEP meeting. The district or Orange County Department of Education, as identified in the SELPA Plan, will provide special education services in accordance with the student's IEP.
- When the IEP cannot be implemented within the Orange County Department of Education, the district of residence is responsible for providing a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) within the continuum of program options identified in its SELPA plan.
- The Orange County Department of Education also provides an interim alternative educational setting while school districts search for permanent placements for students eligible under the IDEA (not excluding county options). [34 C.F.R. section 300.530(g)]

Orange County Department of Education Options

The Orange County Department of Education is committed to providing a spectrum of educational options for students expelled from Orange County school districts. Educational options are provided through the Division of Alternative Education, known as Alternative, Community, and Correctional Education Schools and Services (ACCESS), a Western Association of Schools and Colleges-accredited (WASC) program, and the Division of Special Education Services. The Orange County Department of Education's mission is to ensure that all students are equipped with the competencies they need to thrive in the 21st Century. In addition, ACCESS's mission is to care for, teach, and inspire all students to discover their potential, develop their character, and maximize their learning so they may become successful contributors to society.

The policy of each individual school district affects how the Orange County Department of Education will meet the needs of that particular school district. Some districts use the Orange County Department of Education programs as educational options for those students expelled under Education Code 48900. The Orange County Department of Education also works with Orange County school districts to provide information and data in support of local control accountability plan goals and priorities, including but not limited to pupil engagement, school climate and pupil outcomes.

The Orange County Department of Education Division of Special Education Services provides special education programs and services to individuals with exceptional needs requiring intensive educational services. Referrals to the Division of Special Education Services shall be made in accordance with current procedures.

The ACCESS program provides options for expelled youth at over 70 sites contained within 9 Administrative Units located throughout the county. Regional options may include:

- Classroom instruction serving grades 9-12, delivered daily for 240-270 minutes aligned with the State Frameworks/Standards.
- Classroom instruction serving grades 6-8, delivered daily for 240-270 minutes aligned with the State Frameworks/Standards.
- Contracted learning/independent study programs for students who elect, with parent/teacher approval, not to participate in daily classroom instructional programs. These contracted learning/independent study programs require students to complete a minimum of 20 hours per week of educational product.
- Parent directed home instruction independent study programs through the Community Home Education Program (CHEP) serving students in transitional kindergarten (TK) through grade 8 and Pacific Coast High School, a University of California (UC) approved and National Collegiate Athletic Association-accredited program serving students in grades 9-12.

Referral Process to the Orange County Department of Education Alternative Community Correctional Education Schools and Services (ACCESS)

ACCESS Administrators regularly meet with school district representatives and agency partners to collaborate and coordinate placement of expelled students. Regional meetings of the Child Welfare and Attendance Directors as well as district Student Attendance Review Board members provide an avenue for district and Orange County Department of Education representatives to discuss potential placement challenges, explore regional options and address the needs of expelled students.

Referrals to the Orange County Department of Education ACCESS program may be made directly to the ACCESS Administrative Units listed below. Referrals of students eligible under the IDEA shall be made through the IEP process and in accordance with ACCESS Special Education Procedures.

An Individual Learning Plan (ILP) will be developed for expelled students referred to ACCESS. Part of this plan includes a goal of assisting the student with meeting the requirements stated in the district rehabilitation plan to facilitate returning the student to the school district of residence at completion of the district expulsion.

ACCESS Administrative Units (AU)

<u>Administrative Units</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>
AU 101-North	505 N. Euclid Street Suite 500 Anaheim, CA 92801	(714) 245-6795 Fax: (714) 781-5891	Dave Connor

<u>Administrative Units (AU)</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>
AU 102 Anaheim Las Palmas	505 N. Euclid Street Suite 500 Anaheim, CA 92801	(714) 245-6545 (714) 781-5891 fax	Dave Connor
AU 103 Southeast	621 W. 1st Street Tustin, CA 92780	(714) 245-6680 (714) 731-7269 fax	Janeen Antonelli
AU 103-Southeast South County Enrollment Office	23436 Madero Suite 100B Mission Viejo, CA 92691	(949) 425-2170 (949) 707-0569 fax	Janeen Antonelli
AU 104 Garden Grove	12822 Garden Grove Blvd. Suite D Garden Grove, CA 92843	(714) 245-6450 (714) 796-8817 fax	Chris Alfieri
AU 105 Santa Ana / Newport Mesa	15872 Harbor Blvd. Building A Fountain Valley, CA 92708	(714) 245-6535 (714) 966-1685 fax	Karen Hudgins
AU 108 Pacific Coast High School	14262 Franklin Ave. Suite 100 Tustin, CA 92780	(714) 245-6500 (714) 508-0215 fax	Machele Kilgore
AU 109 CHEP	11095 Knott Ave. Suite L Cypress, CA 90630	(714) 327-1000 (714) 327-1030 fax	Jane Doney
AU 114 Harbor Learning Center / Fountain Valley	15872 S. Harbor Blvd. Building C Fountain Valley, CA 92708	(714) 245-6440 (714) 418-1914 fax	Vern Burton

** Institutions/Court Schools (Placement through the Juvenile Justice Department)*

ACCESS Support Services

Special Education	1715 E. Wilshire Ave. Suite 708 Santa Ana, CA 92705	(714) 547-7931 (714) 796-8811 fax	Lynn Garrett
Title I	1735 E. Wilshire Ave. Suites 801 & 802 Santa Ana, CA 92705	(714) 836-0301 (714) 836-1920 fax	Kelly Gaughran
Assessment Center	1715 E. Wilshire Ave. Suite 706 Santa Ana, CA 92705	(714) 835-2776 (714) 835-3861 fax	Dianne Blackburn
Attendance and Records	1669 E. Wilshire Ave. Suite 601 Santa Ana, CA 92705	(714) 547-9972 (714) 547-2344 fax	Sharon Lakin
Educational Programs and Services	1715 E. Wilshire Ave. Suite 702 Santa Ana, CA 92705	(714) 647-2593 (714) 543-8962 fax	Tony Gibson
Curriculum and Instructional Support Services	1735 E. Wilshire Ave. Suite 806 Santa Ana, CA 92705	(714) 558-3380 (714) 558-8245 fax	Rick Martin

Summary of Gaps in Education Services to Expelled Students and Strategies for Filling Those Gaps

Previously identified gaps have been addressed and considerable improvement has been made through a collaborative process between the 27 Orange County School Districts and the Orange County Department of Education. The 27 School Districts in Orange County and the Orange County Department of Education have committed themselves to an ongoing process to resolve the remaining identified gaps.

Service Gap 1: Expelled Students in Grades K-5

Students in grades K-5 who are expelled do not have as many educational options available as do expelled youth in grades 6-12. In some instances, it has been difficult to place elementary school students who are expelled, especially at the K-4 level. The number of community day schools at the elementary school grade level is very limited.

Progress from 2012

A common practice for students expelled in grades K-5 is for the school district to suspend the expulsion order and refer the student to another school within the district. School districts also collaborate with each other to facilitate enrollment of an expelled elementary school student into a school in a different school district, when appropriate. School districts continue to have the available option of referring expelled students to Skyview Elementary and Middle School, an Orange County Department of Education ACCESS program serving grades K-8. Skyview is a community elementary/middle school program designed to meet the needs of at-risk children, including homeless children and offers community support programs for both the students and their families.

The low number of elementary students in grades K-5 who need alternative placements due to expulsions continue to make it difficult to sustain multiple school sites throughout the county.

Ongoing Strategies for Addressing This Gap

Students in grades K-5 who are expelled, may be served through the following school district or Orange County Department of Education options:

- Transfers within the home district which may include district community day school.
- Skyview Elementary and Middle School, formerly known as the Shaffer Learning Center and Project Hope, located in the city of Orange, is operated by the OCDE ACCESS program and serves students in grades K-8. The location of the school site in proximity to the district of residence may pose a challenge to student attendance.
- Students in grade 5, on a case by case basis, may be referred to other ACCESS school sites depending upon class composition at the time of referral.

The Orange County Department of Education continues to review the on-going need for an elementary level regionalized community school program to serve elementary aged students who may be expelled from their school district. To date, an insufficient number of elementary students have been expelled to warrant such a program. This type of regionalized program could be pursued in the future, with sufficient district support and need. In the event such a program would be developed, transportation would be a challenge for students not living in close proximity to the regionalized program.

Orange County school districts continue to support one another and offer alternative placement options whenever possible, taking students who were expelled for non-mandatory expellable offenses especially in larger districts with community day school options or special classrooms on their sites. School districts are also expanding positive behavior intervention programs and supports, resulting in limited expulsions at the elementary grade level.

Service Gap 2: Limited Special Education Placements in ACCESS

The Orange County Department of Education is committed to expanded program options for students with exceptional needs that have been expelled from school district programs. As identified through communications with SELPA and District-Special Education Directors, programs for emotionally disturbed and dual diagnosis (Emotionally Disturbed and Developmentally Delayed) students have been developed in some school districts as well as the OCDE Special Schools program. In addition, ACCESS continues to evaluate its Special Education services to provide a continuum of placement options. When a student's unique needs cannot be accommodated through existing OCDE program alternatives, the district of residence will continue to facilitate placement to meet the unique needs of individual students through district and non-public agency/school placements.

Progress from 2012

The ACCESS program restructured its special education division to include a Director of Special Education as well as several Special Education Administrative Liaisons to facilitate participation in district IEP team meetings when a referral for an expelled student is made. In addition, ACCESS has continued to increase its special education staff including a focus to address the increased mental health issues for students with special needs. ACCESS is able to provide more intensive counseling services provided by licensed mental health professionals. Group therapy programs have also been developed to address issues that impact a student's social functioning with in the classroom and community, such as social skills, anger management and various coping skill strategies.

All ACCESS Special Education and Safe Schools clinicians have been provided training in Trauma Focused Therapy. OCDE has also expanded its professional development for special education staff, for example specific training has been provided in the Remedial Reading program, both on line and in hard copy form. The on-going challenge continues to be the difficulty in establishing a regionalized program that can be operated and maintained based on an unpredictable number of student referrals. In previous years OCDE opened a regionalized Dual Diagnosis program that had to close due to too few students being enrolled to maintain the program.

Ongoing Strategies for Addressing This Gap

Orange County School Districts have continued to expand efforts to provide services to students within their attendance area reducing the need for placements in ACCESS. The Orange County School Districts and OCDE will provide ongoing monitoring of the need for additional Special Education services for expelled students. The ACCESS program is prepared to respond to increased demands as conditions warrant in the future.

Programs for Emotionally Disturbed Students:

- Continued expansion of programs for emotionally disturbed students is contingent upon location of school sites that can accommodate such programs and sufficient enrollment to maintain such programs. Additional training in various behavior management programs for both general education and special education teachers can support the increased needs of students being enrolled with social/emotional and behavioral needs.

Programs to Expand Continued Services for Special Education Students:

- Expanding program options for special education students continue to be evaluated through OCDE, Orange County SELPA Directors and Orange County School Districts.

Service Gap 3: Rehabilitation Failures

Students sometimes do not meet the provisions of the expulsion rehabilitation plan and fall behind in their academic studies. In these cases, they are at high risk of not completing their necessary credits and are at a higher risk of dropping out of school.

Progress from 2012

Based on a recent survey of Orange County School Districts, concerns about students failing to satisfy school district rehabilitation plans during the expulsion period were not prevalently expressed. Over the past three years, OCDE has engaged in continuing discussions with the Orange County School Districts to identify systematic approaches to facilitate the regular transfer of the rehabilitation plan upon referral of an expelled student, as well as identify community resources available to support students in meeting their district rehabilitation plan requirements. There continues to be a need to identify the availability of intervention services for students to meet the specific requirements of their rehabilitation plans. Pacific Coast High School and CHEP continue to be frequently used options within the ACCESS program.

A challenge continues to be communication between the districts and ACCESS in ensuring that the district's rehabilitation plan is completed by the student. Regional Administrative Units help to promote communication between the districts and the county community schools, and ACCESS principals and assistant principals attend county Student Services meetings to facilitate ongoing communication. In addition, the ACCESS Student Attendance Review Board (SARB) process has been coordinated more efficiently and ACCESS utilizes one of its staff members in truancy court to make sure students attend school and are connected to community resources.

Ongoing Strategies for Addressing this Gap

Districts will be asked to provide ACCESS a copy of the rehabilitation plan when referring an expelled student. ACCESS staff will review the rehabilitation plan with the student and, as appropriate, the student's parents, and will assist the student in completing his/her plan requirements. School staff will continue to monitor student achievement toward rehabilitation plan requirements. For students struggling to meet rehabilitation plan requirements, the student consultation team process could be considered to provide additional support. Continued communication and collaboration with school district personnel will continue to be a priority. Enhanced communication promotes student success and early intervention when students are not meeting the terms of the rehabilitation plan. In addition, communication is vital between the districts and ACCESS regarding the status of students who are returning to the district.

OCDE will continue to explore with districts how to utilize and expand existing collaborations to ensure student success with completion of the rehabilitation plan. This includes the use of community non-profits and private programs to assist in carrying out individual student rehabilitation plans.

Service Gap 4: Mental Health Services

Historically, there has been a concern of how to utilize Orange County Health Care Agency-Mental Health Services for expelled students, particularly during the summer months.

Progress from 2012

Districts have been working to develop mental health community resources including those that would help students who are expelled or at risk for student discipline. 211 OC has partnered with school districts to allow access to their database. The Orange County Health Care Agency has initiated a referral phone line: 1-855-OC-Links (625-4657). Districts have also been able to exercise greater control of their funding to support mental health services under the Local Control Funding Formula and other legislative changes such as Assembly Bill 114, which repealed AB 3632 and allocated funding directly to the school districts. Districts and OCDE have been able to expand mental health services and hire additional mental health service providers. In addition, through the adoption of Local Control Accountability Plans, districts have identified long term goals related to hiring additional school counselors, school social workers, nurses and other support personnel to address pupil engagement, school climate and parent involvement, which allows for enhancement of district resources to address mental health issues.

Ongoing Strategies for Addressing this Gap

The Orange County Department of Education will continue to work to promote school and community partnerships and professional development to address the mental health needs of students. The development of Local Control Accountability Plans will give greater attention to the mental health needs of students and the county office will assist districts as they strive to find ways to address the social emotional needs of their students and support the “whole child.” This is one of OCDE’s strategic initiatives articulated in its 2014 -2019 Strategic Plan. The ACCESS program will continue to work with districts to identify and assist expelled students who have mental health issues. The Orange County SELPAs, school districts and OCDE continue to assess any gaps resulting from changes in the funding structures to ensure the availability of appropriate mental health services for both general education and special education students expelled from school.

Service Gap 5: College Course Preparation Access for County Community Students

Within the ACCESS program there is limited availability of college-preparatory courses satisfying the “a-g” subject requirements for admission into the University of California and California State University systems. This poses difficulty for some students returning to their district of residence following their expulsion period in regard to completing the required courses prior to graduation.

Ongoing Strategies for Addressing this Gap

ACCESS is in the process of implementing an online program that provides “a-g” approved courses as well as credit recovery options and electives, including career technical education. This program is planned to launch in January 2015 and will expand the options available to expelled students seeking to satisfy the “a-g” requirements or other college-preparatory courses. ACCESS will continue to provide professional development to teachers to effectively utilize the new on-line program. In addition, Pacific Coast High School offers a full range of college-preparatory courses satisfying the “a-g” requirements.

<p>COUNTYWIDE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS AND BEST PRACTICES TO PREVENT SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS</p>
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Orange County schools seek to minimize the number of expulsions by establishing prevention and early intervention practices. School districts pursue a variety of strategies in an effort to educate students and establish a safe and caring climate to prevent student misconduct. When warranted, disciplinary measures are implemented consistent with district policies and procedures to ensure fair and consistent disciplinary measures. These efforts will continue to prevent any disproportionate representation of minority students recommended for expulsion.

Expulsions occur when student and campus safety is threatened or when remediation efforts have not been successful. Districts engage in a number of preventative and proactive strategies including but not limited to the following:

- Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports
- Restorative Justice Practices
- Violence Prevention Education Services
- Alternate Suspension Classrooms (ATS)
- Annual Notice of Parent Rights and Responsibilities
- Student Study Teams
- Special Education Services
- Counseling
- Student Contracts
- School Signs and Notices
- Red Ribbon Week
- School Attendance Review Board (SARB)
- Parent Meetings and Information Nights
- In-school Suspensions
- Check-in, check-out
- Adult Mentoring of Students
- Peer Assistance League (PAL)
- Friday Night Live
- Tutoring
- Homework Clubs
- Online Classes and Credit Recovery Opportunities
- Community Partnerships
- Student Clubs and Organizations
- Peer Court
- Conflict Mediators/Conflict Resolution Services
- Juvenile Alcohol and Drug Education (JADE), PRYDE Program, Outreach Concern, Straight Talk, Western Youth Services and Other Community Counseling Partnerships
- Anti-bullying Programs
- After School Programs
- Saturday School

- Crisis Response Network (CRN)
- Automated Telephone Notifications
- Violence Prevention Curricula
- Athletic Drug Testing
- Police Cadet Programs
- Grad Night Activities
- Every 15 Minute Program
- Gang Resistance Intervention Partnership (GRIP)

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