

**Office of Christine Lizardi Frazier**  
**Kern County Superintendent of Schools**  
*'Advocates for Children'*

**Countywide Plan for Provision of Educational  
Services to Expelled Students**

Arvin Union	Maricopa Unified
Bakersfield City	McFarland Unified
Beardsley	McKittrick
Belridge Elementary	Midway
Blake	Mojave Unified
Buttonwillow Union	Muroc Joint Unified
Caliente Union	Norris
Delano Joint Union High	Panama-Buena Vista Union
Delano Union Elementary	Pond Union
DiGiorgio Elementary	Richland
Edison	Rio Bravo-Greeley Union
El Tejon Unified	Rosedale Union
Elk Hills	Semitropic
Fairfax	Sierra Sands Unified
Fruitvale	Southern Kern Unified
General Shafter	South Fork Union
Greenfield Union	Standard
Kern High	Taft City Elementary
Kernville Union	Taft Union High
Lakeside Union Elementary	Tehachapi Unified
Lamont	Vineland
Linns Valley-Poso Flat Union	Wasco Union High
Lost Hills Union	Wasco Union
Maple	

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## Overview

The Kern County Superintendent of Schools, in conjunction with school districts in Kern County developed the Countywide Plan for Provision of Educational Services to Expelled Students pursuant to Education Code 48926. The plan was adopted by the governing board of each school district and the County Board Of Education.

The plan enumerates existing educational alternatives for expelled students, identifies gaps in educational services to expelled students, and strategies for filling those gaps. The plan also identifies alternative placement for students 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 students, as determined by the governing board.

Pursuant to Education Code 48926 each county superintendent of schools, in conjunction with the superintendents of the local school districts shall submit a triennial update to the plan to the Superintendent of Public Instruction by June 30th. Collaborating on the triennial update provides all districts and the county office an opportunity to review the current status of its educational offerings for this very targeted population.

Kern County school district governing boards 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) The seriousness of the offense
- 2) The available educational alternatives
- 3) Other related factors.

County level alternatives for expelled students will remain available to all expelled students, unless such placement is determined not to be the most appropriate placement for a special education student. District-level alternatives for expelled students, if district-level alternatives exist, will vary from one district to the next depending on the characteristics of that district.

The approval of the Kern County Board of Education and submission of the plan to the Superintendent of Public Instruction prior to June 30, 2015 shall satisfy requirements associated with the "Countywide Plan for Provision of Educational Services to Expelled Students." In addition, this plan shall be posted on the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office website ([www.kern.org](http://www.kern.org)) and distributed to every district superintendent in Kern County prior to the 2015-16 school year.

## **I. CURRENT EDUCATIONAL ALTERNATIVES AVAILABLE FOR EXPELLED STUDENTS AND STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVEMENT DURING THE NEXT THREE YEARS**

### **A. CURRENT EDUCATIONAL ALTERNATIVES**

#### **District Level Educational Alternatives for Expelled Students**

The governing board of each school district will determine which educational alternatives are appropriate and available. Educational alternatives offered at the district level include the following:

- Expulsion, suspended order, with placement on the same school campus and/or alternative education program within the district [E.C. 48917 (a)].
- Expulsion, suspended order, with placement on a different school campus within the district [E.C. 48917 (a)].
- Expulsion, suspended order, with voluntary enrollment in District Independent Study, if the parent and student consent (Classroom instruction must be available upon parent or student request).
- Expulsion with referral to a District Community Day School, if available [E.C. 48660; E.C. 48915.01].
- Expulsion with subsequent transfer to another district. [E.C. 48915.1]
- Expulsion with subsequent transfer to a charter or private school.
- Expulsion with referral to the Kern County Community School [E.C. 1981].
- Involuntary transfers to another school site within the district or alternative education program within the district

#### **County Level Educational Alternatives for Expelled Students - (KCSOS)**

The mission of the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Alternative Education program is to meet the unique educational, social, and emotional needs of our diverse student population in a safe and nurturing environment to encourage students to develop an enthusiasm for life long learning and pursue post-high school opportunities. Alternative Education is a student centered option that supports and embraces the diverse needs of students by providing an alternative method of delivering instruction and monitoring academic success. Rigorous curricula, intervention programs, extended learning opportunities and safe environments are characteristics of the Kern County Alternative Education program. Collaboration with partner agencies and school districts is integral to providing available resources to the students of Kern County.

The Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office provides educational alternatives to expelled students through its Community School. Kern County students who have been expelled from district programs may be referred to the county operated Community

School when the district board of education determines this to be the most appropriate placement. The county operated Community School may not be the most appropriate placement for some special education pupils, even if they are expelled from their district. Some pupils may continue to require intensive services as provided by their district of residence due to the severity of their disability. In such cases, it is the programmatic and fiscal responsibility of the district of residence to continue to provide the intensive services.

The Kern County Superintendent of Schools Alternative Education WASC Accredited program offers the following instructional options for expelled youth. Parents indicate their choice of instructional option by completing the Method of Instruction form at the time of enrollment.

- Classroom instruction is scheduled Monday-Friday with 270 instructional minutes per day. Credentialed teachers provide direct instruction in all content areas.
- Independent Study instruction is scheduled with 270 instructional minutes per week. Credentialed teachers provide small group direct instruction in English and Math. Individual support is provided in all other content areas. Students are required to attend school a minimum of 4.5 hours per week and be responsible for 30 hours of educational product per week.

County level educational alternatives are provided at the following Community School sites:

Auburn Community School  
3700 Auburn St.  
Bakersfield, CA 93306  
PH: (661) 873-2360 FAX: (661) 873-2368

Community Learning Center-34<sup>th</sup>  
222 34<sup>th</sup> St.  
Bakersfield, CA 93301  
PH: (661) 852-5500 FAX: (661) 324-0922

Community Learning Center, Elementary  
222 34<sup>th</sup> St.  
Bakersfield, CA 93301  
PH: (661) 852-5530 FAX: (661) 324-0922

Community Learning Center-Tech  
300 E. Truxtun Ave., Suite A  
Bakersfield, CA 93305  
PH: (661) 852-5600 FAX: (661) 852-5696

East Kern Community School  
3200 Pat Avenue  
Mojave, CA 93501  
PH: (661) 824-3111 FAX: (661) 824-3122

Lake Isabella Community School  
6504 Lake Isabella Blvd.  
P.O. Box 3431  
Lake Isabella, CA 93240  
PH: (760) 379-1020 FAX: (760) 379-1021

North Kern Community School  
1915 Cecil Ave.  
Delano, CA 93215  
PH: (661) 721-2130 FAX: (661) 721-8618

Sillect Community School  
3600 N. Sillect Ave.  
Bakersfield, CA 93308  
PH: (661) 327-8600 FAX: (661) 327-7276

West Kern Community School  
301 North St.  
Taft, CA 93268  
PH: (661) 763-3612 FAX: (661) 763-3648

***B. BEST PRACTICES OF BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTION APPROACHES AND OPTIONS USED TO MINIMIZE THE NUMBER OF SUSPENSIONS LEADING TO EXPULSION, EXPULSION ORDERS, AND SUPPORT FOR PUPILS RETURNING FROM EXPULSION***

- Implement district wide PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports)
- Development of pre-expulsion Student Study Teams
- Utilization of In-School Suspension
- Employ school district Social Worker, School Psychologist, and School Counselor on campus
- Provide parent/guardians and students with a comprehensive orientation upon initial enrollment, which outlines program policies, procedures, and behavioral expectations.
- Encourage strong collaboration between site administration, counselors, and community agencies to address the specific needs identified to be factors contributing to the student's behavioral issues.

- Employ school district Resource Officers on campus
- Employ a Student Affairs Specialist – SAS Program
- Increase Mental Health services to students on campus
- Employ Behavior Intervention Specialists on campus
- Utilize a progressive discipline system which includes counseling, detention at lunch and after school, behavior contracts, in-house suspensions, and Saturday school
- Increase on-site counseling at elementary and middle schools
- Lower expulsions through completion of Functional Behavior Analysis and implementation of Behavior Intervention Plans
- Increase student referrals to counseling services
- Implement Character Counts curriculum
- Increase parent involvement in Parent Project
- Utilize Project Alert on campus
- Increase TUPE Intervention efforts on campus
- Employ Behavior Aides to support behavior interventions
- Encourage student participation in Social Skills group
- Make appropriate referrals to ISES – Intensive Social and Emotional Services
- Provide training on Restorative Practices
- Provide Culture of Response (COR) training for staff
- Utilize weekly, monthly, and quarterly assemblies for rewarding positive behavior
- Encourage the use of student “reflection sheets” or “think sheets” as an intervention
- Ensure Aggression Replacement Training is offered on campus
- Consistently utilize Academic Review Board hearings
- Utilize Student/Parent conferences
- Monitor student progress with an academic advisor
- Utilize the Coordination of Services Team (COST)
- Promote the use of Safe School Ambassadors on campus
- Employ a Youth Services Supervisor to coordinate interventions
- Train staff to provide conflict mediation
- Provide Drug and Grief Counseling with community counselor
- Train students to provide peer mediation
- Provide Forward Thinking workshops to teaching staff
- Utilize a Pre-expulsion panel
- Invest in AmeriCorps workers on campus to support student interventions
- Develop District Opportunity class
- Expel students only as a last resort

### ***C. HOW BEST PRACTICES RELATE TO DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY REPRESENTATION IN EXPULSION DATA***

Kern County student enrollment as reported by the CDE indicates 63% Hispanic, 25% White, and 6% African American. The best practices include evidence based intervention strategies, and through School Community Partnerships, training is provided geared toward educating the instructional staff on cultural and socio-economic factors that impact the minority pupils. Districts provided their boards with an analysis of disaggregated data to be reviewed on an annual basis and every possible option is explored for a student prior to recommending expulsion.

## **II. SERVICE GAPS IN EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

### ***A. SERVICE GAPS IDENTIFIED IN THE 2012 PLAN***

A requirement for inclusion in the Triennial Update is to include a report on the service gaps identified in the previous plan. This section describes the gaps and the progress towards addressing the gaps.

District Size and Rural Challenges – The average district enrollment in Kern County is approximately one third the state average. 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.

Increased Structure in Educational Placements - An additional gap that has been identified in recent years is the need to try to keep as much structure in educational placements for expelled students as possible. Structured programming into the less-populated, rural areas of the county continues to be a gap.

Communication breakdown- Sometimes there is a breakdown in communication between the districts and the county-operated community school program. Students are referred to Community School, but do not always enroll in a timely manner, and when students fail the Community School program districts are not consistently notified.

### ***B. SERVICE GAPS IN EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO EXPELLED STUDENTS AND STRATEGIES FOR FILLING THE GAPS IN THE 2015 PLAN***

Geographic Area, District Size, and Rural Challenges – Kern County encompasses nearly 8,200 square miles. The average district enrollment in Kern County is approximately one third the state average. The large geographic area, smaller district size, and 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 program that is committed to providing educational services to all 47 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. The Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office will continue to work with referring districts to increase services by establishing smaller satellite sites in the more rural areas of the county.

Increased Structure in Educational Placements - An additional gap that has been identified in recent years is the need to try to keep as much structure in educational placements for expelled students as possible. In response to the identification of this gap, the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office has implemented several layers of strategies. The first is the expansion of classroom options in the Community School program. The second is the use of other means of correction for behavior violations, which decreases the mobility of students between community school sites. While this gap has been a focus of a great deal of energy, getting the more structured programming into the less populated, rural areas of the county continues to be a gap.

Communication breakdown- Sometimes there is a breakdown in communication between the districts and the county-operated community school program. Students are referred to Community School, but do not always enroll in a timely manner, and when students fail the Community School program districts are not consistently notified. To bridge this gap, the Community School administration is working with the districts to increase awareness and improve methods of identifying students receiving referrals as well as improve current methods of notifying referring districts of students who are returning.

Transportation – Due to limitations in transportation funding neither the referring district nor the county community school provides transportation to expelled students. Strategies include ensuring that the community school program is regionalized geographically to serve the greatest number of students countywide. The Kern County Superintendent of Schools Alternative Education program accomplishes this through maintaining community school sites in Delano, Taft, Lake Isabella, and Mojave in addition to four sites in Bakersfield. When families communicate that they are experiencing a short-term transportation barrier the community school program will temporarily provide bus passes.



### **III. ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENTS FOR PUPILS WHO FAIL COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL PLACEMENTS**

The Community School program operated by the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office maintains a standing policy of accepting all students who have been expelled from their district of residence, and who have exhausted the alternatives offered by the district, unless such placement is determined not to be the most appropriate placement for a special education student. If an initial placement is made to a district operated community day school and the student commits an expulsion offense or fails the program, the 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 school district, the pupil may be referred to the county community school program.

### **IV. COORDINATED EFFORTS BETWEEN SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND THE KERN COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

In Kern County, discussions on this subject between district and county superintendent of schools staff happen on an ongoing basis for the entire three-year period between triennial updates of this plan. The topics of these discussions include district/county offerings, progress in addressing the needs of these pupils, and ongoing or emerging gaps in services. The topics of these discussions have been integrated into the structure of the current revision of the Countywide Plan for Provision of Educational Services to Expelled Students. On January 28, 2015, the triennial update process was reviewed with the superintendents of Kern County districts at the monthly Administrative Advisory Committee and Superintendents Meeting. Superintendents were also provided a survey designed for their input on the key components required in the plan. On February 4, 2015, a meeting was held with superintendents/designees to review information gathered from the survey. On March 25, 2015 the proposed triennial language was presented to the superintendents of Kern County districts at the monthly Administrative Advisory Committee and Superintendents Meeting. Following the presentation and a subsequent discussion, the language contained in this 2015-18 triennial update represents the coordinated effort of the county superintendent, in conjunction with the superintendents of the school districts in Kern County. Finally, this document was taken to the Kern County Superintendent of Schools on June 11, 2015 for approval.