



VENTURA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Dr. César Morales, County Superintendent of Schools

May 22, 2024

TO: Dr. César Morales, Superintendent Ventura County Office of Education

FROM: Dr. Consuelo Hernandez Williams, Associate Superintendent Student Services
Stefanie Rodriguez, Director Alternative Education

SUBJECT: Summary of Changes to Ventura County Plan for Expelled Students – Triennial Update 2024

California Education Code Requirements

California *Education Code (EC)* Section 48926 requires county superintendents, in conjunction with superintendents of school districts within the county, to develop a plan for providing educational services to all expelled pupils in that county. The initial plan was to be adopted by the governing board of each school district within the county and by the county board of education and submitted to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction in 1997. *EC* Section 48926 also requires that each county superintendent of schools, in conjunction with district superintendents in the county, submit a triennial update to that plan to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

EC Section 48926 provides that:

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.

Updates to Ventura County Plan for Expelled Students:

1. **Ventura County Background and Context** reflects the most recent population data; the **Three-Year Ventura County Enrollment by Ethnicity** reflects the most current 2020-23 data per CDE; the **Ventura County 2022-23 English Learner Enrollment by Language Acquisition Status and Grade** reflects 2022-2023 data; and the **English Learner Enrollment 2022-23: California State and Ventura County** reflects current data per CDE.
2. **Legal References** - this section was previously titled Legal Updates. The Legal References in this section highlight some of the most important legislation including Suspension, Expulsion, Enrollment and Transfers, Credits and Graduation Requirements, Foster, and Homeless Youth.
3. **Wellness Centers** - the 2024-2027 Triennial Plan includes information on the Mental Health Services Act and Mental Health Student Services Act as well as Wellness Centers/Spaces on middle school and high school campuses throughout the county.
4. **Service Gaps** – the 2024-2027 Triennial Plan reflects a summary of the Service Gaps from 2021-24. Input and collaboration with LEA's on current and past Services Gaps informed the development of the detailed 2024-27 Service Gaps to support expelled students.
5. **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Conditions**- the 2021-2024 Triennial Plan had a section to address Coronavirus (COVID-19) Conditions. This section was removed from the Plan since it is no longer required.

"Commitment to Quality Education for All"

Countywide Plan Requirements and Recommendations

The recommended content of the Countywide Plan must address additional, more detailed questions that were raised and supported by the State School Attendance Review Board and Student Programs and Services Steering Committee of the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association. These questions concern behavioral intervention approaches used to minimize the number of suspensions and expulsions, including a focus on how such practices may impact the disproportionate number of minority students being suspended or expelled.

1. The Countywide Plan must list and describe the educational alternatives currently available for expelled students.

Ventura County Plan for Expelled Students notes the following as alternatives; placement on same campus, placement on a different campus, independent study, transfer to another district, district community day school if available, charter school, private school, County Community School (see page 15).

It is recommended that the plan also describe strategies for improvement during the next three years including: Any behavioral intervention practices, at the site and district levels, and options used to minimize number of suspensions leading to expulsion, minimize the number of expulsions being ordered, and support students returning from expulsion.

Specific explanation of how those practices relate to any disproportionate representation of minority students in such interventions.

Student services representation from LEAs in Ventura County have contributed to the development of Countywide Practices to address the disproportionate number of minority students who are suspended or expelled in Ventura County; the countywide practices and behavior intervention approaches used to minimize the number of suspensions and expulsions. These practices have impacted the disproportionate number of minority students being suspended and expelled by allowing students, staff, and families access to resources within the school environment and in the community that address social emotional/mental health needs, equity of resources across all demographics, access to interventions and a collaborative effort to meet the individual needs of students (see page 16).

Districts throughout the County address equity issues by:

- Participating in professional learning opportunities focusing on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging such as the annual countywide Equity Conference sponsored by the Ventura County Office of Education
- Providing support through Student Assistance Programs that support students and their families in accessing countywide educational and behavioral support resources
- Providing mental health training for counselors to support students in crisis
- Providing Mental Health/Wellness Spaces on middle school and high school campuses. With on-campus programming and community-based partnerships, this allows students to receive coordinated health/mental health and other support services maximizing engagement and success
- Making referrals to community agencies for student and families to have access to services such as Evening Reporting Centers operated by Probation and outside of school counseling

2. The Countywide Plan must address gaps in educational services and strategies for filling them (see pages 32-34).

For the 2021-2024 Ventura County Plan for Expelled Students, the following four gaps were identified.

- Identified service gap number one addressed students who refuse to attend, refuse Program services, or refuse instruction such that instruction cannot occur (Education Code 48926). This service gap continues to be a challenge. A collaborative effort continues to be made to exhaust all interventions, collaborate with districts of residence, community resources, and parents/guardians.
- Identified service gap number two addressed students who were expelled due to a threat. This is no longer an identified gap. In collaboration with local LEAs, the number of students bringing weapons to campus has increased. Thus, this has been deemed as an educational service gap. Education for students and families along with resources in this area have been available.
- Identified service gap number three addressed substance use and abuse among Ventura County Youth. Based on collaboration with LEA's, continues to be a challenge on campuses and continues to be a collaborative effort for districts, community resources, and families.
- Identified service gap number four addressed College and Career Readiness for students. This continues to be a gap as information, college/career fairs, FAFSA workshops, are made available to students and families. Local districts continue to strive for students graduating to have a plan, enrollment information, or career path.

3. 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 pose a danger to other district pupils, as determined by the governing board (see page 15).

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

- Expulsion, suspended order, with placement on the same campus. EC 48917(a)
- Expulsion, suspended order, with placement on a different school campus within the district. EC 48917(a)
- Expulsion, suspended order, with placement in district independent study, if it is determined that independent study is an appropriate alternative for the student and the parent/guardian consents.
- Expulsion, suspended order, with subsequent transfer to another district.
- Expulsion with referral to a district community day school, if available.
- Expulsion, suspended order, with subsequent transfer to a charter school.
- Expulsion, suspended order, with subsequent transfer to a private school.
- Expulsion with subsequent transfer to another district.
- Expulsion with subsequent transfer to a charter school.
- Expulsion with subsequent transfer to a private school.
- Expulsion with referral to the Ventura County Office of Education Gateway Community School Program (grades 6-12).

