

June 26, 2006

TO: Stan Halperin, Superintendent MUSD
Larry Plew, Superintendent ESUSD

FROM: Rosanne Higley, Director of Learning Support

SUBJECT: Implementation of EC §48926 — Countywide Plan for
Alternative Education Programs

Attached is the revised version of the County Plan as required by EC §48926. The 2003 version of this plan was previously approved by district superintendents, the Eastern Sierra Unified School District Board of Trustees, Mammoth Unified School District Board of Trustees and the Mono County Office of Education Board of Education in June of 2000.

As outlined in EC §48926, the plan shall:

- enumerate existing education alternatives for expelled pupils,
- identify gaps in educational services to expelled pupils,
- identify strategies for filling those gaps in services,
- identify alternative placements for pupils who are expelled and placed in the Mono County Community School program, but who fail to meet terms and conditions of their rehabilitation plan or who pose a danger to other district pupils as determined by the governing board.

According to EC §48926, the county office of education is responsible for oversight of the plan. This plan is due to California Department of Education on June 30, 2006, and must have approval by Mammoth Unified Board of Trustees, Eastern Sierra Board of Trustees and Mono County Board of Education.

Please sign and return to MCOE.

Attachment

JOINT PLAN OF THE

MONO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

EASTERN SIERRA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

MAMMOTH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOR

IMPLEMENTATION

OF

EDUCATION CODE §48916.1

Updated 06/01/06

MONO COUNTY/DISTRICT PLAN
FOR EXPELLED YOUTH

May 15, 2006

EC §48926

Each county superintendent of schools in counties that operate community schools pursuant to EC §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 EC §48916.1, on June 30th thereafter.

OVERVIEW
FOR
MONO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
EASTERN SIERRA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
MAMMOTH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Mono County Office of Education will continue to provide an educational option for expelled students. This program is one that fits in the continuum of educational care as outlined. The philosophy of each individual school district affects how the Mono County Office of Education Community School program will meet the needs of that particular school district.

For example, school districts may use the Mono County Community School or Community Day School programs as an educational option for students expelled under a district “no-tolerance” policy, or these programs may be used as a student assistance or placement alternative.

EXISTING EDUCATIONAL ALTERNATIVES
FOR
EXPELLED YOUTH

Educational programs within Mono County provide numerous opportunities for students who are in need of traditional and/or alternative educational programs. While individual school districts offer a broad spectrum of services and the county office of education offers additional options, this combination provides a continuum of alternatives to expelled students.

A student whose behavior has resulted in expulsion must be provided with a rehabilitation plan that is designed and prepared by the district of residence. This plan may involve one or more of the outlined options. Actual referral to such placement is made by the District Governing Board.

Possible educational alternatives and/or combinations:

1. County Community School including voluntary enrollment in an independent study option and/or up to 6 hours of daytime instruction
2. Community Day School with up to 8 hours of class time instruction
3. Opportunity Class
4. Cerro Coso Community College
5. School in another district
6. School in another county
7. Private School
8. Home Schooling through independent study alternative
9. Suspended expulsion with placement on the same school campus
10. Suspended expulsion with placement at a different school site within the district
11. Expulsion with referral to County Community School with variations as listed above.

Students who fail the county-operated Community School or Community Day School program will be referred back to the district of residence for review and consideration for alternative placement.

IDENTIFIED COUNTY AND DISTRICT GAPS IN SERVICES
FOR EXPELLED YOUTH
AND
POSSIBLE STRATEGIES FOR FILLING THESE GAPS

1. Students who have been placed in the County Community or Community Day Schools and have failed this placement or who commit another expulsion type offense, or who pose a danger to other students, may not have any remaining viable alternative educational placements within the county.

County/District strategy for addressing this gap:

- Expelled students who fail to meet the terms and conditions of the district’s rehabilitation plan, and who fail or otherwise don’t meet the community school rules and regulations of the county-operated program, are referred back to the district for review and consideration for alternative placement, such as a different district school or another district program.
 - No expelled students have been expelled from their placement in the community school or community day school.
 - No expelled students have failed in their placement in the community or community day school.
 - The school district of residence continues to maintain responsibility for developing a rehabilitation plan for the student, for referring the student to an appropriate educational setting and for ensuring that an educational program is provided either within or outside of the district.
 - This has been a successful strategy.
2. The small school districts in Mono County generally expel very few students during the school year. Historically there have been so few students expelled that having a special class or program for such students, located in each district, is not financially or geographically possible.

County/District strategy for addressing this gap:

- A regional program may be developed to reflect geographical constraints and to support limited student numbers.
 - A Community Day School may be established in a different site according to need in a given community.
 - A Community Day School was created in Benton to meet the needs of expelled elementary students.
3. Students who are expelled by individual school districts within Mono County vary as to age, grade level, and expulsion offenses. The wide range of age, grade level, and seriousness of offense make it difficult to provide appropriate programs.

County/District strategy for addressing this gap:

- A regional program may be developed to reflect geographical constraints and to support limited student numbers.
 - This strategy has not been implemented but is still under consideration.
 - When appropriate, based on the behavior of students and their needs, a waiver may be requested in order to mix K-6 expelled and 7-12 expelled students within the same location with adequate separation.
 - This strategy has not been implemented but is still under consideration.
 - A Community Day School may be established in a different site according to need in a given community.
 - A Community Day School was created in Benton to meet the needs of expelled elementary students.
4. Students in grades K-6 who are expelled do not have the same educational options available as do expelled youth who are in grades 7-12, due to the limited number of students who are expelled from these lower grades.

County/District strategy for addressing this gap

- A regional program may be developed to reflect geographical constraints, and/or limited student numbers in grades K-6.
- When appropriate, based on the behavior of students and their needs, a waiver may be requested to allow the mixing with adequate separation of students in grades K-6 with students in grades 7-12.
- A Community Day School may be established to serve small numbers of students according to need in a given community.

GENERAL PLAN STATEMENTS

1. Any student expelled from any school district in Mono County must be placed in an alternative educational setting to ensure a continuance of his/her education. Statements about an educational placement rehabilitation plan; length of expulsion and specific review dates must be delineated by the district board of education upon expulsion.
2. The alternative education program cannot be offered within or on the grounds of the school from which the student was expelled.
3. Expelled students within grades K-6 cannot be provided educational services in the same classroom as students expelled within grades 7-12 (without a waiver).
4. Independent study may be offered as one optional education strategy of the Community or Community Day Schools. The parent or guardian must provide written consent for placement in independent study.
5. It is the responsibility of the district superintendent to notify the Mono County Superintendent of Schools within one school day of any student being expelled.
6. The district and county superintendent or designees shall discuss the circumstances involving the expulsion and possible placement alternatives. The appropriate district and

county administrative personnel will then be notified so as to take immediate action relative to the alternative educational placement and to support the individualized rehabilitation plan.

7. The County Superintendent or designee will supervise the educational placement. The rehabilitation plan shall involve district personnel and could also involve selected others such as probation department representatives, mental health, public health, or representatives from social services, etc., along with the parent or guardian.
8. County and district personnel will do everything possible to eliminate any gaps in educational services. This will be done by enrolling the student in alternative educational services as soon as possible. If a delay of more than one week is anticipated, the sending district shall make an interim, appropriate educational assignment for student completion while waiting for final placement.
9. Students expelled from school sites in Mammoth Lakes or Lee Vining shall receive alternative educational services in Mammoth Lakes. Students expelled from school sites in Bridgeport or Coleville shall receive alternative educational services in Bridgeport or Coleville. Students expelled from Edna Beaman Elementary School shall receive alternative educational services in Mammoth Lakes or in Benton. High school aged students from the Eastern Sierra School District attending Bishop High School that are expelled shall receive alternative educational services in Mammoth Lakes or in Benton.
10. Post-expulsion educational services shall be provided to insure no interruption of educational services for expelled special education students. The district of residence shall continue to be responsible for services to special education eligible students. Special education personnel should conduct a formal Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) meeting for all special education students prior to change in educational placement or program. The expelled student's IEP must reflect the appropriateness of any alternative educational placement prior to placement. District special education teachers will attend all subsequent IEP meetings and will provide special educational support on a consultant or other basis.

11. Students who are habitually truant, and whose truancy cannot be rectified through the diligent efforts of the Mono County Community or Community Day Schools, will be removed from these placements and referred back to the sending districts. The district administration may then make a SARB referral.
12. As required by EC 48916.1(e)(1) each school district shall maintain data as specified in this subdivision and report it to the State Department of Education, commencing June 1, 1997, on forms provided by the State Department of Education. The school district shall maintain the following data:
 - The number of pupils recommended for expulsion.
 - The grounds for each recommended expulsion.
 - Whether the pupil was subsequently expelled.
 - Whether the expulsion order was suspended.
 - The type of referral made after the expulsion.
 - The disposition of the pupil after the end of the period of expulsion.
13. The County Superintendent of Schools shall provide any needed outcome data to the referring school district, including outcome data on students participating in independent study in programs operated by the County Office of Education.
14. This plan may be revised at any time with the approval of all district boards and the Mono County Office of Education.
15. This plan has been approved by the governing boards of the two school districts and by the Mono County Board of Education.

SIGNATORY PAGE

The signatures below indicate approval of this Countywide Plan for providing Community School Services.

MONO COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

BOARD APPROVAL

RICHARD A. McATEER, Superintendent Date Date

MAMMOTH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

STAN HALPERIN, Superintendent Date Date

EASTERN SIERRA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

LARRY PLEW, Superintendent Date Date

