

San Luis Obispo County Plan
for
Provision of Educational Services
to
Expelled Students

Approved by the
San Luis Obispo County Board of Education
June 2015

San Luis Obispo County Office of Education
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San Luis Obispo County covers an area of 3,316 square miles. It is bordered on the north by Monterey County, on the east by Kern County and on the south by Santa Barbara County. The Pacific Ocean provides the county's western border.

A total of 10 school districts in San Luis Obispo County and the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education provide services to 34,539 pupils. The school districts range in size from the smallest with 121 pupils to the largest with a student enrollment of over 10,716 pupils.

Educational programs within San Luis Obispo County provide numerous opportunities for students in need of traditional and/or alternative education programs. Individual school districts offer a spectrum of educational alternatives, and the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education (SLOCOE) offers additional options via Grizzly ChalleNGe Charter School and the Court and Community School Programs. Together, the districts and SLOCOE provide a wide range of services to expelled youth.

In addition to providing mandated services to expelled students, the educators and agency representatives in the county collaborate on a regular basis to monitor the changing needs of our students and families, increase awareness, and provide research-based programs that best meet the needs of all students.

- There are many interagency committees that meet regularly with this goal in mind. Some of these committees are focused within the local districts and others are county-wide. An example of this is that the Juvenile Judge meets approximately five times a year with administrative-level representatives of the COE, the DA's office, Probation, CASA, Social Services, Behavioral Health, the Public Defender's office, and the Court Commissioner. This team was formed in 2013 at the "Keeping Kids in School and out of Court" Summit, held in conjunction with "Beyond the Bench". This group regularly monitors countywide data and programs offered to youth and families throughout the county and focuses on how the agencies can support these families in a collaborative manner.
- Schools within the districts and the COE have implemented many research-based programs to better meet the needs of the individual students. These include, but are not limited to: Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, Response to Intervention, Positive Behavior Intervention Supports, Bully Prevention Programs, AVID, Student Study Teams, Family Support Teams, Why Try?, Get Focused Stay Focused, Restorative Justice, Character Education, Aggression Replacement Training, Youth in Action, Link Crew, Transition Mentor Programs, and Violence Prevention Programs.
- Seven Challenges – Drug and alcohol program is now being offered county-wide. This is a collaborative between local districts, the COE, and County Behavioral Health. This program allows for continuity of care throughout the county, offering additional support to a highly mobile population.
- Focused support for homeless and foster youth is in place throughout the county. Local liaisons meet regularly to ensure the needed supports for these students and families are in place and necessary information is communicated in a timely manner. There is a county-wide interagency agreement between SLOCOE, Department of Social Services, Department of Behavioral Health, Department of Probation, all districts and charter schools, Superior Court, Aaron's Group Home, CASA, Pathways, Youth Treatment Program, ECHO, Aspiratnet, Family Care Network,

- CAPSLO Homeless Services, and the Woman's Shelter.
- All districts have a SARB process in place and the county operates a County-wide Truancy Board which not only hears cases, but also monitors county-wide attendance data and shares information regarding services that are available to districts, students, and families.
- COE sponsors regular professional development for staff, county-wide, to assist with the increased awareness of new legislation, alternatives to suspension, disproportionality, and other areas that affect our at-risk youth.
- The COE and four districts are currently participating in the Attendance Peer Learning Network. We hope to expand this offering to other districts next year.

Educators in San Luis Obispo County recognize the need for a continuum of educational services for all students, including expelled students. It is important to provide support and service to expelled students while recognizing the rights of others to be safe. Local educators also recognize the seriousness of expulsion and pledge to apply careful thought, with an emphasis on fairness and consistency, during the decision-making process.

Requirement for educational program for expelled students

Every school district governing board in San Luis Obispo County will refer each expelled student to an appropriate educational placement for the period of the expulsion. The educational placement will be determined on an individual basis by the school district's governing board based on 1) seriousness of offense, 2) available educational alternatives, and 3) other related factors.

California Education Code 48916.1

(a) An expulsion order shall remain in effect until the governing board, in the manner prescribed in this article, orders the readmission of a pupil. At the time an expulsion of a pupil is ordered for an act other than those described in subdivision (c) of Section 48915, the governing board shall set a date, not later than the last day of the semester following the semester in which the expulsion occurred, when the pupil shall be reviewed for readmission to a school maintained by the district or to the school the pupil last attended. If an expulsion is ordered during summer session or the intersession period of a year-round program the governing board shall set a date, not later than the last day of the semester following the summer session or intersession period in which the expulsion occurred, when the pupil shall be reviewed for readmission to a school maintained by the district or to the school the pupil last attended. For a pupil who has been expelled pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 48915, the governing board shall set a date of one year from the date the expulsion occurred, when the pupil shall be reviewed for readmission to a school maintained by the district, except that the governing board may set an earlier date for readmission on a case-by-case basis.

Requirement for a Rehabilitation Plan for expelled students

Each school district must take steps to see that services are provided for expelled students. An expelled student is given a rehabilitation plan designed by the district of residence. The district's governing board is responsible for monitoring any recommended placements and maintaining appropriate documentation.

California Education Code 48916.1

(b) The governing board shall recommend a plan of rehabilitation for the pupil at the time of the expulsion order, which may include, but not be limited to, periodic review as well as assessment at the time of review for readmission. The plan may also include recommendations for improved academic performance, tutoring, special education assessments, job training, counseling, employment, community service, or other rehabilitative programs.

Requirement for a review and readmission of expelled students

California Education Code 48916.1

(c) The governing board of each school district shall adopt rules and regulations establishing a procedure for the filing and processing of requests for readmission and the process for the required review of all expelled pupils for readmission. Upon completion of the readmission process, the governing board shall readmit the pupil, unless the governing board makes a finding that the pupil has not met the conditions of the rehabilitation plan or continues to pose a danger to campus safety or to other pupils or employees of the school district. A description of the procedure shall be made available to the pupil and the pupil's parent or guardian at the time the expulsion order is entered.

(d) If the governing board denies the readmission of an expelled pupil pursuant to subdivision (c), the governing board shall make a determination either to continue the placement of the pupil in the alternative educational program initially selected for the pupil during the period of the expulsion order or to place the pupil in another program that may include, but need not be limited to, serving expelled pupils, including placement in a county community school.

(e) The governing board shall provide written notice to the expelled pupil and the pupil's parent or guardian describing the reasons for denying the pupil readmittance into the regular school district program. The written notice shall also include the determination of the educational program for the expelled pupil pursuant to subdivision (d). The expelled pupil shall enroll in that educational program unless the parent or guardian of the pupil elects to enroll the pupil in another school district.

Educational Alternatives Available for Expelled Students in San Luis Obispo County

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

- Expulsion, suspended order, with placement on the same school campus.
- Expulsion, suspended order, with placement on a different school campus within the District.
- Expulsion, suspended order, with placement in District Independent Study, if available, if the parent requests and if a daily classroom option is available.
- Expulsion, suspended order, with subsequent transfer to another district.
- Expulsion with referral to a District Community Day School program, if available.
- Expulsion with subsequent placement in another District's Community Day School, if available.

- Expulsion with referral to the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education Community School Program.
 - Expulsion, voluntary application and acceptance at the Grizzly ChalleNGe Charter School
 - Expulsion, unilateral parental placement in a private school or private home-school alternative.
- * *There are no Community Day Schools planned for operation during the 2015 – 2016 school year.*

Identified Gaps in Service

2012 Plan Identified Gaps in Service

The Alternative Education Operations Committee (AEOC), which includes representatives from school district alternative education programs, community schools, SELPA, and Probation, meets quarterly to review data, support and oversee alternative education programs in the county. In the 2012 Countywide Plan for Provision of Educational Services to Expelled Students AEOC identified the following service gaps.

Attendance and/or failure to respond to intervention ~ A student expelled from a District for Education Code 48900 violations and referred to either a district-operated Community Day School or county operated Court and Community School program who either commits another violation of Education Code 48900, does not attend school, or fails to respond to interventions at the school placement. The following strategies were identified to address this service gap:

1. Expelled students who fail to comply with the requirements of the rehabilitation plan at a district community day school may be referred to county operated community schools to fulfill those requirements.
2. For students who continue to demonstrate a pattern of non-attendance after enrollment at Community School, the Community School may, after exhausting all other interventions, initiate a referral to the San Luis Obispo County Truancy Board. This board has the power to refer parents to the District Attorney for legal action.
3. If a mandatory expellable offense is committed while a student is in Community School, the student can be transferred to another Community School site for the duration of the expulsion if it is determined that student and staff safety will not be compromised. The district of residence is involved in this process. In addition, the Grizzly ChalleNGe Charter School is open for student enrollment semi-annually; it is available for expelled, truant and at-risk students ages 16 - 18 through a student initiated application process.

Shortly after the development of the 2012 plan in response to decreased enrollment and budget constraints, districts began to close their community day schools. While referring parents to the District Attorney's Office proved to be of assistance in addressing this gap, educators and agency partners were aware that for older at-risk students the court referral for parents/guardians was not enough. Representatives from SLOCOE, the Superior Court, the District Attorney's Office, the Department of Probation, and the Sheriff's Office worked with our local Assemblyman to introduce a bill allowing for minors to be sited into court. This bill was signed into law and became effective

January 1, 2015. The above listed agencies continue to work together to assist students with their success in school. While the transfer options for struggling expelled students is still an option, SLOCOE has begun to implement additional supports for students, within all sites. These additional strategies are addressed below with the 2015 plan gaps.

Small School Districts ~ Small school districts within San Luis Obispo County generally expel very few students during the course of a school year. Since so few students are expelled, having a special class or program for such students located in each district is not feasible. Students who are expelled by individual small school districts vary as to age, grade level, and expulsion offenses. The wide range of age, grade level, and seriousness of offense make it difficult for these districts to provide appropriate programs for these students. There are significant geographical distances between local small districts, thus district or county operated classroom sites/programs for small school districts would require either extensive busing or parent provided transportation. In the 2012 plan the following strategies were identified to address this service gap:

1. Two small school districts have put Community Day Schools in place: Shandon Joint Unified and Coast Unified School Districts. Small school districts have the option of referring students to Community Schools.
2. While building the rehabilitation plan, districts will determine placement on a case by case basis. Districts have some options available which might include independent study, transfer to another district, and transfer to another school site, opportunity programs, and community schools.
3. The school district of residence will continue to maintain responsibility for developing a rehabilitation plan for the student, referring the student to an appropriate educational setting, and ensuring an educational program is provided to the expelled student.

Due to decreased enrollment the districts have closed their community day schools. As with all districts in the county, the small districts continue to increase strategies to prevent expulsion and increase the ability to meet the individual needs of all students. When other strategies are no longer an option, expelled students from small districts are referred to SLOCOE Community School.

Students in Grades One through Six ~ Students in grades one through six who are expelled do not have the same educational options available as do expelled youth who are in grades seven through twelve due to the limited numbers of students who are expelled in these lower grades. These younger students cannot attend the programs designed for middle and high school students. In the 2012 plan the following strategies were identified to address this service gap:

1. The school district of residence continues to maintain responsibility for developing a rehabilitation plan for the student, referring the student to an appropriate educational setting, and ensuring that an educational program is provided to the expelled student.
2. All districts will continue to focus on early identification of academic failure and swift intervention in both academic and behavior problems.
3. While building the rehabilitation plan, districts will determine placement on a case by case basis. Districts have some options available to them including voluntary independent study/homeschool, transfer to another district, transfer to another school site, and opportunity

programs.

4. SLOCOE and district staff continues to monitor progress in the number of expulsions in grades 1 – 6 through regular quarterly meetings of AEOC.

While the number of expelled students in grades 1 – 6 is not a common occurrence, it presents a challenge for districts and for families when it does occur. At the writing of this current plan the options for districts remain the same, but SLOCOE is working to offer an additional option for next year. A middle school classroom is being planned for the 2015 – 2016 school year. SLOCOE is in the process of applying for a waiver to allow expelled students in grades 4 – 6 to be enrolled in this classroom if necessary. While no one is promoting the expulsion of these younger students, this will provide an option for the rare case that does occur. In the event that a student in grades 4 – 6 is expelled SLOCOE will work with the district of residence to ensure that the proper supports for these students are provided. There may need to be additional district support in order to best meet the safety and educational needs of these younger students.

2015 Plan Identified Gaps in Service

San Luis Obispo County continues to see a decrease in the number of expelled students. In the past three years this number has dropped dramatically.

School Year	# Expelled
2001/2002	210
2002/2003	224
2003/2004	187
2004/2005	136
2005/2006	165
2006/2007	218
2007/2008	250
2008/2009	170
2009/2010	148
2010/2011	165
2011/2012	90
2012/2013	84
2013/2014	26

While the number of students is decreasing, the members of the AEOC have identified the following gaps in services for the students who are expelled. Below each identified gap are suggested strategies for addressing the gap.

Many students who are referred to SLOCOE Community School fail to attend school regularly or fail to respond to intervention. ~ Students will be considered enrolled once the screening/acceptance process has been completed and they attend the first enrollment/orientation

meeting with their parents. The current rate of attendance for students enrolled in community school is **75%**. Strategies to address this gap include, but are not limited to:

- Continued focus on truancy. SLOCOE has contracted with the Department of Probation for an officer to focus on increasing attendance. Individual students will be monitored and a tiered system of support will be implemented based upon individual need. Staff members will receive continuous training to ensure that attendance and discipline data are reported accurately. Parents will have access to online attendance data. They will be informed of how to access the data and encouraged to use it.
- Students and families will continue to be referred to the SST and SARB processes for close monitoring, and systematic leveraging of supports.
- Professional development will be provided to staff and agency partners to increase their knowledge of and ability to implement positive behavior intervention supports, multi-tiered systems of support, trauma informed care, restorative practices, and other research-based approaches of support.
- SLOCOE will involve students in the creation of their Individual Success Plan (ISP) and will communicate regularly with students and parents/guardians regarding the progress of the plan.
- Level UP ~ SLOCOE is developing a comprehensive program for students to progress into increased opportunities depending upon their individual success, commitment, and goals.
- Parents will be informed of the importance of their involvement as well as exposed to research-based strategies to assist them with parenting at-risk youth.

Increased student need, the size of the county, and the remote areas in the districts present a challenge when providing services to a decreasing specialized population. ~ San Luis

Obispo County covers a large geographic area and is divided into four main regions (North County, Coastal, San Luis Obispo, and South County). SLOCOE currently operates three different community school sites. Due to declining enrollment, the county is struggling to keep all three sites fully operational while maintaining the high level of services needed to fully serve this population. Strategies to address this gap include, but are not limited to:

- SLOCOE has combined the expertise of the special education and the alternative education departments. This allows for better service to all students, and allows for closer compliance monitoring of Individualized Education Plans.
- All classrooms at the Court School will be fully staffed with teachers who are dually credentialed, in order to serve our students with special education needs.
- Construction is currently underway to expand the Juvenile Hall. Upon completion, we will have all new educational facilities. This expansion will also include a third unit to serve students who are currently placed out of county. This new unit will be for students who have been placed long term.
- SLOCOE continues to investigate ways to restructure the program in order to maintain the high level of support.
- SLOCOE is looking at ways to re-route the buses with the goal of discovering the best way to cover the large distance of the county, keep the transportation time to a minimum, and still provide service to students, while keeping transportation costs to a

minimum.

- An independent study option is available to students when appropriate.
- Representatives from SLOCOE and the districts will work collaboratively to best meet the needs of these most at-risk students. Focused teams will meet regularly to monitor the changes and look for opportunities to better support the changing needs of the students in the county.

Alternatives for students who fail placement in Community Day Schools or who pose a danger to other district pupils

Currently there are no Community Day Schools planned for operation in the county during the 2015 – 2016 school year. Should that change, expelled students 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, can be referred to the SLOCOE Community School. The school district of residence continues to maintain responsibility for developing a rehabilitation plan for the student, referring the student to an appropriate educational setting, and ensuring that an educational program is provided either within or outside the school district.

Parents, at their own expense, may unilaterally choose placement in a private school or private home-school alternatives.

The San Luis Obispo County Office of Education's Student Programs and Services Division offers the following options for expelled youth:

Community Schools:

- Mesa View Community School – Nipomo Mesa
- Chalk Mountain Community School --Atascadero
- Loma Vista Community School – San Luis Obispo

Court School:

- Juvenile Court School

Alternative Education Charter School:

- Grizzly ChalleNGe Charter School at Camp San Luis Obispo

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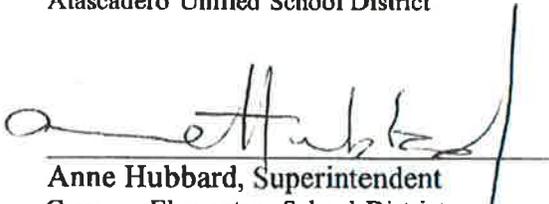
**Approved by the San Luis Obispo County Superintendents' Council
May/June 2015**



Deborah Bowers, Superintendent
Atascadero Unified School District



Gil Campos, Superintendent
Pleasant Valley Joint Union Elementary
District



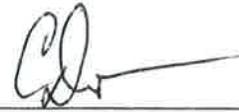
Anne Hubbard, Superintendent
Cayucos Elementary School District



Eric Prater, Superintendent
San Luis Coastal Unified School District



Victoria Schumacher, Superintendent
Coast Unified School District



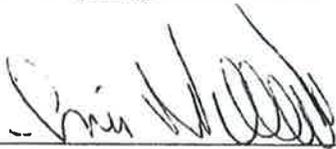
Curt Dubost, Superintendent
San Miguel Joint Union School District



James Hogeboom, Superintendent
Lucia Mar Unified School District



Teresa Taylor, Superintendent
Shandon Joint Unified School District



Chris Williams, Superintendent
Paso Robles Joint Unified School District



Joe Koski, Superintendent
Templeton Unified School District

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Board Approval Record

Atascadero Unified School District	June 2015
Cayucos Elementary School District	June 2015
Coast Unified School District	June 2015
Lucia Mar Unified School District	June 2015
Paso Robles Joint Unified School District	June 2015
Pleasant Valley Joint Union Elementary District	June 2015
San Luis Coastal Unified School District	June 2015
San Miguel Joint Union School District	June 2015
Shandon Joint Unified School District	June 2015
Templeton Unified School District	June 2015