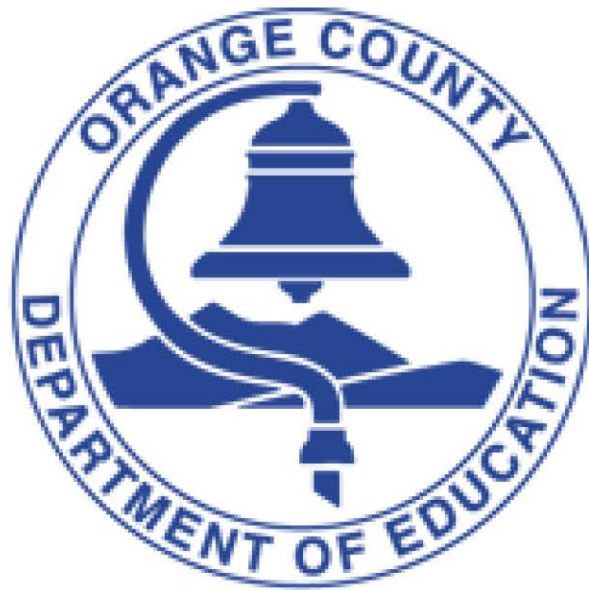


**2021-2024**  
**County Plan for**  
**Expelled Students**



**Al Mijares, Ph.D.**  
**County Superintendent of Schools**



2021-2024  
COORDINATED PLAN FOR PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL  
SERVICES TO ALL EXPELLED STUDENTS

between the

*Orange County Superintendent of Schools*

and

*the Superintendents of:*

Anaheim Elementary School District  
Anaheim Union High School District  
Brea-Olinda Unified School District  
Buena Park School District  
Capistrano Unified School District  
Centralia School District  
Cypress School District  
Fountain Valley School District  
Fullerton Joint Union High School District  
Fullerton School District  
Garden Grove Unified School District  
Huntington Beach City School District  
Huntington Beach Union High School District  
Irvine Unified School District  
Laguna Beach Unified School District  
La Habra City School District  
Los Alamitos Unified School District  
Lowell Joint School District  
Magnolia School District  
Newport-Mesa Unified School District  
Ocean View School District  
Orange Unified School District  
Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District  
Saddleback Valley Unified School District  
Santa Ana Unified School District  
Savanna School District  
Tustin Unified School District  
Westminster School District



**PLAN FOR PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO  
ALL EXPELLED STUDENTS IN ORANGE COUNTY  
2021-2024**

**General Provisions**

As required by Education Code section 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 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24. 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 county community school pursuant to subdivision (c) of Education Code Section 1981, or a juvenile court school, as described in Section 48645.1, or a community day school pursuant to Article 3, (commencing with Section 48660 of Chapter 4 of Part 27 of the Education Code.

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. section 48915). In addition to the requirements stated above, such factors as district size, district level alternatives, county level alternatives, Local Control Accountability Plans (LCAP), and district policy and 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. section 48917 (a)].
2. Expulsion, *suspended order*, with placement on a different school campus within the district [E.C. section 48917 (a)].
3. Expulsion with referral to a district community day school program, if available [E.C. section 48660].
4. Expulsion with subsequent transfer to another district subject to acceptance by the district of proposed enrollment [E.C. section 48915.1].
5. Expulsion with referral to the Orange County Department of Education, Division of Alternative, Community and Correctional Education Schools and Services (ACCESS) [E.C. section 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 subject to the requirements of Education Code Section 47605(c)(5)(J). They are not required to follow Education Code section 48900 et seq. as the basis of their discipline or expulsion policy, although by regulation petitioners must demonstrate familiarity with these provisions. Charter schools have the option to adopt their chartering district's policy and procedures regarding expulsion.

A student who is expelled from a charter school may return to the school district of residence. As set forth in Education Code Section 47605(e)(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. Once the school district has documentation of the expulsion order, the provisions of Education Code sections 48915.1 and 48915.2 to determine whether the pupil may enroll in a district school or must be referred to a county community school or district community day school (EC section 48915.2).

### **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 section 48900 and following, 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 ACCESS Area or transferred to another ACCESS Area 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.
- Non-Public School (NPS) placements for students with disabilities may be considered by school districts if the IEP team determines a NPS is appropriate.

### **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 an 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 may 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 local plan.
- The Orange County Department of Education may also provide an interim alternative educational setting while a school district locates an educational placement for students eligible under the IDEA (not excluding county options). [34 C.F.R. section 300.530(g)]

## **Orange County Department of Education Options**

### **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' 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 school district. Some districts use the Orange County Department of Education programs as educational options for those students expelled under Education Code section 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 45 sites contained within 7 Areas 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. For students with disabilities, this would be considered and discussed at an IEP meeting.
- 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. For students with disabilities this would be considered and discussed during an IEP meeting.

### **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 (CWA) Administrators as well as district Student Attendance Review Board (SARB) members provide a venue 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 Areas 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. A *Supplemental Referral Form* and a *Return to District Form* were developed with the support of District Student Services Administrator's feedback to improve communication. Districts will use the *Supplemental Referral Form* to highlight unique needs of students, interventions in place, and rehabilitation plans for students. When returning to the district of residence, ACCESS will use the *Return to District Form* to communicate student progress on the district rehabilitation plan as well as share important contact information in the case that questions may arise.

ACCESS and the Orange County school districts have resolved the difficulty for students returning to their district of residence following their expulsion period about completing the required courses prior to graduation, which was a Gap in Service in the previous triennial countywide plan 2018-2021.

ACCESS and school districts have implemented online programs that provide "a-g" approved courses as well as credit recovery options and electives, including career technical education. These programs have expanded the options available to expelled and returning students seeking to satisfy the "a-g" requirements or other college-preparatory courses. ACCESS continues to provide professional development to teachers to effectively utilize their on-line program. In addition, Pacific Coast High School (Administrative Area 5) offers a full range of college-preparatory courses satisfying the "a-g" requirements. *GradPoint*, the online course option with "a-g" approved courses utilized by ACCESS, satisfies the subject requirements for admission into the University of California and California State University Systems.



## ACCESS Administrative Areas

AREA	ADDRESS	CONTACT INFORMATION	STAFF CONTACT
<b>Area 1 – South County</b>	15872 Harbor Blvd. Fountain Valley, CA 92708	(714) 245-6535 (714) 966-1685 fax	Ken Ko <a href="mailto:KKo@ocde.us">KKo@ocde.us</a>
<b>Area 2 – Mid-County</b>	505 N. Euclid St., Suite 500 Anaheim, CA 92801	(714) 245-6795 (714) 781-5891 fax	Chris Alfieri <a href="mailto:CAlfieri@ocde.us">CAlfieri@ocde.us</a>
<b>Area 3 - North County</b>	1277 S. Lyon St., Suite 501 Santa Ana, CA 92705	(714) 245-6680 (714) 731-7269 fax	Vern Burton <a href="mailto:VBurton@ocde.us">VBurton@ocde.us</a>
<b>Area 4 - Juvenile Court Schools*</b>	331 City Drive South Orange, CA 92868	(714) 935-7651 (714) 935-6339 fax	Kirk Anderson <a href="mailto:KAnderson3@ocde.us">KAnderson3@ocde.us</a>
<b>Area 5 - Pacific Coast High School, Community Home Educational Program (CHEP), Skyview</b>	14262 Franklin Ave. Suite 100 Tustin, CA 92780	(714) 245-6500 (714) 508-0215 fax	Machele Kilgore <a href="mailto:MKilgore@ocde.us">MKilgore@ocde.us</a>
<b>Area 6 – Sunburst Academy</b>	4022 Saratoga Ave., Bldg. 25 Los Alamitos, CA 92702	(714) 796-8780 (714) 662-8770 fax	Dinah Ismail <a href="mailto:DIsmail@ocde.us">DIsmail@ocde.us</a>
<b>Area 7 – College and Career Preparatory Academy (CCPA)</b>	1669 E. Wilshire Ave., Suite 605 Santa Ana, CA 92705	(714) 796-8795 (714) 547-8674	Dave Connor <a href="mailto:DConner@ocde.us">DConner@ocde.us</a>

*\*Juvenile Court Institutions/Juvenile Court Schools Placement are made through the Juvenile Justice Department*

## ACCESS Student Services

DEPARTMENT/OFFICE	ADDRESS	CONTACT INFORMATION	STAFF CONTACT
<b>Student Support Services and Special Education</b>	1715 E. Wilshire Ave., Suite 706 Santa Ana, CA 92705	(714) 647-2596 (714) 796-8811 fax	Lynn Garrett <a href="mailto:LynnGarrett@ocde.us">LynnGarrett@ocde.us</a>
<b>Title I</b>	1735 E. Wilshire Ave., Suites 801 & 802 Santa Ana, CA 92705	(714) 836-0301 (714) 836-1920 fax	Lisa Lanier <a href="mailto:LLanier@ocde.us">LLanier@ocde.us</a>
<b>Assessment Center</b>	1715 E. Wilshire Ave., Suite 706 Santa Ana, CA 92705	(714) 835-2776 (714) 835-3861 fax	Jane Doney <a href="mailto:JDoney@ocde.us">JDoney@ocde.us</a>
<b>Attendance and Records</b>	1669 E. Wilshire Ave., Suite 601 Santa Ana, CA 92705	(714) 547-9972 (714) 547-2344 fax	Sharon Lakin <a href="mailto:SLakin@ocde.us">SLakin@ocde.us</a>
<b>Educational Programs and Services</b>	1669 E. Wilshire Ave., Suite 608 Santa Ana, CA 92705	(714) 647-2593 (714) 957-0736 fax	Katy Ramezani <a href="mailto:KRamezani@ocde.us">KRamezani@ocde.us</a>
<b>District Partnerships and Operations</b>	1669 E. Wilshire Ave., Suite 603 Santa Ana, CA 92705	(714) 245-6404 (714) 547-2344 fax	Dennis Cole <a href="mailto:DCole@ocde.us">DCole@ocde.us</a>
<b>Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program</b>	OCDE/FYSCP, C/O OC SSA/CFS 800 N. Eckhoff Street, Bldg. 124 Orange, CA 92868	(714) 668-7830 (714) 662-8753 fax	Raina K. Lee <a href="mailto:Rlee@ocde.us">Rlee@ocde.us</a>

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

Previously identified gaps have been examined 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**

While there are several California Education Code sections that prohibit the expulsion of students in lower grades for various offenses, a student in grade K-3 can be expelled for commission of any of the other offenses. Specifically, Education Code section 48900(k) prohibits the expulsion of any student for disruption/defiance and Education Code 48900.2 prohibits the expulsion of a student in K-3 for sexual harassment. Education Code 48900.3 (hate violence) and 48900.4 (harassment, threats, or intimidation) pertain only to students in grades 4-12.

As identified mainly by elementary school and smaller districts, 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 limited.

#### **Progress from 2018**

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 may 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 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 all at-risk children and offers community support programs for both the students and their families.

#### **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 alternative education programs:

- Transfers within the home district which may include district community day school.
- Skyview Elementary and Middle School, located in the city of Orange, is operated by the OCDE ACCESS program, and serves students in grades K-8.
- 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 ongoing need for an elementary level regionalized community school program to serve elementary-aged students who may be expelled from their school district. Over the past five years, the number of expulsions for Orange County students in grades K-6, as reported to *DataQuest*, are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>K-3</b>	<b>4-6</b>
2014-15	0	7
2015-16	0	7
2016-17	0	10
2017-18	0	9
2018-19	0	9

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 interventions through a Multi-Tiered System of Support framework with evidence-based programs such as Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports, Restorative Practice, Mindfulness Practice, Trauma-Informed Care Perspective and Resources, and Social and Emotional Learning resulting in reduction of expulsions at the elementary grade level. In addition, the tiered interventions, and strategies of the Student Attendance Review Team (SART) and Student Attendance Review Board (SARB) processes are being implemented as preventative/early warning measures to reduce the number of suspensions and expulsion through a strength-based approach focusing on students’ behavior (academic, attendance, social-emotional) challenges and family support.

**Challenges to Addressing This Gap**

- The location of the Skyview Elementary and Middle School site in proximity to the district of residence may pose a challenge to student attendance.
- To attend Skyview or other schools in neighboring school districts, students may require transportation. However, neither the districts nor ACCESS provide transportation which is a challenge for some students to attend schools outside of the boundaries of the district of residence.
- The low number of elementary students in grades K-5 who need alternative placements due to expulsions continue to make it impractical and cost-inhibitive to sustain operation of multiple school sites and programs throughout the county.

## **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/non-public school (NPS) placements.

### **Progress from 2018**

Orange County School Districts have continued to expand efforts to provide services to students within their attendance area reducing the need for referrals to ACCESS and the OCDE Special Schools program. 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 Students with intensive Mental Health needs:*

- ACCESS has been able to expand the number of licensed mental health clinicians over the past several years. This has allowed for increased support during the school day while students are on campus. Continued expansion of programs for students with intensive mental health and behavioral needs is contingent upon the location of school sites that can accommodate such programs and sufficient enrollment to maintain such programs. Additional training in various behavior management strategies for both general education and special education teachers can support the increased needs of students being enrolled with mental health 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.

ACCESS will continue to utilize its Director of Student Services as well as Special Education Administrative Liaisons/Coordinators to facilitate participation in district IEP team meetings when a referral for an expelled student is made to ACCESS. In addition, ACCESS has continued to increase its special education staff including a focus to address the increased mental health needs for students with disabilities. ACCESS can provide intensive counseling services by licensed mental health professionals who have been trained in Trauma Informed Care and Restorative Practice. Small group therapy programs have also been developed to address issues that impact social functioning within the classroom and community, such as social skills, anger management and various coping skill strategies.

All ACCESS mental health clinicians will continue to receive training in the most current research-based training in various therapeutic therapies to address the changing needs of our students.

### **Ongoing Strategies for Addressing This Gap**

School districts continue to create, expand, and have success with community day school programs for expelled students with special needs as an option to county operated and non-public school placements. ACCESS provides an inclusive educational setting with students mainstreamed into general educational programs. Placement at non-public schools (NPS) continues to be an option for school districts as well. In addition, districts are utilizing various flexible scheduling opportunities along with alternative education options to meet IEP goals, provide related services, and fulfill the requirements of the rehabilitation plan.

### **Challenges to Addressing This Gap**

- Establishing a regionalized program in an alternative school setting that can be operated and maintained based on an unpredictable number of student referrals as well as transportation barriers pose ongoing challenges. These challenges impact the sustainability of regionalized special education programs operated by OCDE. Although some school districts have expressed a need for a self-contained special day class (SDC) for students with emotional and/or behavior disorders, this has not been sustainable for OCDE due to the minimal number of students being referred. Challenges to addressing Service Gap #1 may also have been a contributing factor to the limited number of referrals for establishing such a program.
  - One area of continued concern expressed by some school districts is the ability of the ACCESS program to provide a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) given its inclusive practices and independent study model. Based on the smaller class sizes in ACCESS and the individualized instructional model through contracted learning, the

structure of the school day differs from a traditional school schedule and often requires modification of the IEP.

- Another area of concern has been the combined programming of middle school and high school programs. There is a desire to provide separate classes/programs for middle school students to better address their unique developmental and social-emotional needs, however the low numbers of referrals/enrollment of middle school students make it difficult to maintain separate programs.

### **Service Gap 3: Rehabilitation Failures**

Based on the most recent survey of Orange County School Districts, concerns about students failing to satisfy school district rehabilitation plans during the expulsion period were expressed in combination with general concerns about student transition as they reenter the district. On occasion, students do not meet the provisions of the expulsion rehabilitation plan and fall behind in their academic studies. In these cases, such students are at high risk of not completing their necessary credits and are at a higher risk of dropping out of school.

#### **Progress from 2018**

Over the past three years, OCDE has continued 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.

Regional Administrative Areas help to promote communication between the districts and the county community schools, and ACCESS directors, coordinators, 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. Orange County School Districts and ACCESS have implemented the use of a supplemental referral form when students are referred to an ACCESS program. This form includes specific information about a student's needs as well as progress and action items needed to complete the rehabilitation plan requirements. School staff will continue to monitor student achievement toward rehabilitation plan requirements throughout the term of expulsion while

educational services are provided by ACCESS or private agencies. For students struggling to meet rehabilitation plan requirements, the student consultation team process may be considered to provide additional support. Continued, two-way 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. When returning to the district, ACCESS staff will continue to use the Student Transition form to communicate information on student's completion of the rehabilitation plan.

Districts have expanded their programs and services to support expelled students by hiring additional staff and assigning specific duties to staff to monitor the completion of the student's rehabilitation plan and to communicate/collaborate with ACCESS and other programs. In addition, to meet the academic needs of the students and to ensure that they acquire the necessary credits to meet the graduation requirements, districts have expanded their instructional programs to include enhanced Summer School and after-school programs, district online instruction, and tutoring support for expelled students. Furthermore, upon re-entry to the district, students will continue to be closely monitored and supported by school staff through the creation of a behavior contract, needs assessment survey, and the opportunity for alternative placement at a different school site within 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.

### **Challenges to Addressing This Gap**

- A challenge continues to be communication between the districts and ACCESS in ensuring that the district's rehabilitation plan is completed by the student. In some cases, districts do not directly share the student's rehabilitation plan with ACCESS in a timely manner or at all, thus leaving this task to parents and students.
- There continues to be a need to identify additional intervention services for students to meet the specific requirements of their rehabilitation plans especially when involving mental health services.

### **Service Gap 4: Mental Health Services**

Orange County School Districts are seeing an increased need for mental health services and a shortage of affordable and accessible options for students.

### **Progress from 2018**



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 gives 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 2016 -2019 Strategic Plan. OCDE, which heads the California SUMS (Scale Up Multi-Tiered System of Support) initiative, continues to provide technical assistance to many Orange County School Districts in the areas of Academic, Behavioral, and Social and Emotional support. OCDE continues to share-out local resources through network meetings and listservs. The ACCESS program will continue to work with districts to identify and assist expelled students who have mental health needs and whose family needs resources to care for the whole child. To this end, ACCESS has several mental health clinicians. ACCESS will continue to provide more intensive counseling services by licensed mental health professionals who have been trained in **Trauma Informed Care** and Restorative Practice. In addition, ACCESS mental health clinicians are trained in **Trauma Focused Therapy**. 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.

### **Ongoing Strategies for Addressing this Gap**

OCDE was awarded the **Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA) Grant** in partnership with OCHCA through August 31, 2024, with the purpose to strengthen mental health partnerships between county mental health or behavioral health departments, community-based organizations, and Orange County school districts to increase access to mental health services and remove barriers to better serve our students and families in their mental health needs. Expected outcomes related specifically to serving and supporting expelled students are as follow:

- Improve timely access to accessing services.
- Reduce barriers to needed services.
- Increase linkages to mental health services for districts.
- Increase training on mental health topics to educators, administrators, parents/families, and students.
- Improve awareness and understanding of mental health topics and knowledge of how to navigate services.
- Reduce negative student outcomes (e.g., chronic sadness, thoughts of suicide, suicide rates, chronic absenteeism, school failure, etc.).

To accomplish these goals as a Community of Practice, the grant provides funding for seven (7) Regional Mental Health Coordinators (RMHC).

To decrease the student to mental health staff ratio and increase students' access to services, districts have continued to hire more counselors, therapists, psychologists, social workers, clinicians/specialists, administrators/coordinators and increase the number of partnerships with community agencies to expand student access to mental health services, crisis response services, and special education services. Some districts have shifted the duties and responsibilities of existing staff to include mental health support services and community coordination/partnerships for mental health services for students. Districts have placed particular focus on at-risk students, low socio-economic students, Homeless and Foster Youth, LGBTQIA students, and students with irregular school attendance.

Furthermore, districts have participated in Trauma-Informed Care and Education, Trauma Focused Therapy, Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) competencies and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) trainings provided by OCDE in addition to contracting with community agencies to provide similar training to counselors and teacher/staff training within the district. OCDE and Orange County school districts will continue to collaborate about the districts' needs for additional student mental health training and technical assistance with implementing behavior supports and strategies. To implement Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) strategies schoolwide, some districts have established School Climate Lead Teachers and Teams at each school site to enhance the collaboration and coordination of the multi-tiered framework of support.

### **Challenges to Addressing This Gap**

- The distribution of community mental health resources and services, specifically mentorship services, are not equitably dispersed or available throughout all the communities within the Orange County school districts.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>COUNTYWIDE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS AND BEST PRACTICES TO PREVENT SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS</b></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 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 other means of correction have not been successful. Districts engage in several preventive and proactive strategies including but not limited to the following:

- Adult Mentoring of Students
- After School Programs
- After-school programs that address specific behavioral issues or expose pupils to positive activities and behaviors, including, but not limited to, those operated in collaboration with local parent and community groups.
- Alternate Suspension Classrooms (ATS)
- Annual Notice of Parent Rights and Responsibilities
- Anti-bullying Programs
- Any of the alternatives described in Section 48900.6 related to community service
- Athletic Drug Testing
- Automated Telephone Notifications
- Behavior Skills Group
- Brief Intervention Counseling (Substance Abuse Counseling)
- Canine Solutions for Contraband Canine School visits
- Character Counts
- Check-in, Check-out
- Classroom Management training for administrators and teachers
- Clifton Strengths Finder
- Come Walk In My Shoes (abilities awareness)
- Community Partnership
- Conferences between school personnel, the pupil's parent or guardian, and the pupil.
- Conflict Mediators/Conflict Resolution Services
- Coordinated Approach to Children's Health (CATCH)
- Crisis Response Network (CRN)
- Enrollment in programs for teaching prosocial behavior or anger management
- Every 15 Minute Program
- Friday Night Live
- Gang Resistance Intervention Partnership (GRIP)
- Grad Night Activities

- Homework Clubs
- In-school Suspensions
- Juvenile Alcohol and Drug Education (JADE), PRYDE Program, Outreach Concern, Straight Talk, Western Youth Services and Other Community Counseling Partnerships
- Kindness Assemblies
- Link Crew
- Mindfulness practice/implementation of Mindful Mondays
- Multi-Tiered System of Support Framework (MTSS Continuum of Support)
- Online Classes and Credit Recovery Opportunities
- Other Means of Correction (OMC) and early intervention training for administrators and teachers
- Parent Meetings and Information Nights
- Peace Week (Anti-bullying week)
- Peer Assistance League (PAL)
- Peer Court
- Police Cadet Programs
- Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports
- Random Acts of Kindness
- Red Ribbon Week
- Referrals for comprehensive psychosocial or psychoeducational assessment, including for purposes of creating an individualized education program, or a plan adopted pursuant to Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Sec. 794(a)).
- Referrals to the school counselor, psychologist, social worker, child welfare attendance personnel, or other school support service personnel for case management and counseling.
- Restorative Practices
- Safety Task Force
- Saturday School
- School-based Trauma-Informed Care Perspective and Resources training for school personnel
- School Attendance Review Board (SARB)

- School Attendance Review Team (SART)
- School counseling website with online counseling for self- and peer-referral services
- School Signs and Notices
- Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Curriculum vetted CASEL such as Second Step and Sanford Harmony
- Stanford Tobacco Prevention Toolkit
- Student Behavior Contracts
- Student Clubs and Organizations
- Student Safety Plans
- Study teams, guidance teams, resource panel teams, or other intervention-related teams that assess the behavior, and develop and implement individualized plans to address the behavior in partnership with the pupil and his or her parents
- Successful Mind for School, Work, and Life
- Text-A-Tip
- Thrively (as an interests/strengths assessment and career explorer curriculum)
- TUPE/DATE activities
- Tutoring
- Universal Design for Learning
- Violence Prevention Curricula
- Violence Prevention Education Services
- WEB (Where Everybody Belongs)

**Additional proactive and preventative strategies to address student disciplinary incidences considering Distance and Hybrid Learning:**

- Care and Support Hotlines to share need-based district and community resources
- Distance Learning for credit recovery for students to meet the academic objectives of the Rehabilitation Plan
- District virtual calming rooms with multifaceted approaches to reduce stress, improve mood, and assist with academic functioning by addressing social emotional barriers
- Online Needs Surveys for staff, students, and families

- Teletherapy or phone sessions for social-emotional support and stress reduction for students
- Virtual small group counseling sessions for students

# ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

## BOARD AGENDA ITEM

DATE: June 16, 2021

TO: Nina Boyd, Associate Superintendent

FROM: Christine Olmstead, Ed.D., Associate Superintendent, Educational Services Division

SUBJECT: Acceptance of the *2021 Countywide Plans for Provision of Educational Services to Expelled Students* (Countywide Plans) for the 2021-2024 triennial cycle

### BACKGROUND:

California *Education Code (EC)* Section 48926 requires county superintendents, in conjunction with superintendents of the 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 (SSPI) 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 SSPI.

*EC* Section 48926 provides specifically 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.

The enclosed plan is the final draft of the *2021 Countywide Plan for Provision of Educational Services to Expelled Students*. Upon approval of the initial plan at the February 3, 2021 Board Meeting, the plan was forwarded to the school districts of Orange County. School districts used the initial plan as a model to create their district's plan. After the districts' plans were approved by their local governing boards in the spring of 2021, all plans from Orange County school districts were forwarded to the OCDE County Board of Trustees for final approval before sending to the California Department of Education/SSPI.

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### RECOMMENDATION:

Accept the *2021-2024 Countywide Final Plan for Provision of Educational Services to Expelled Students*

CO:ag