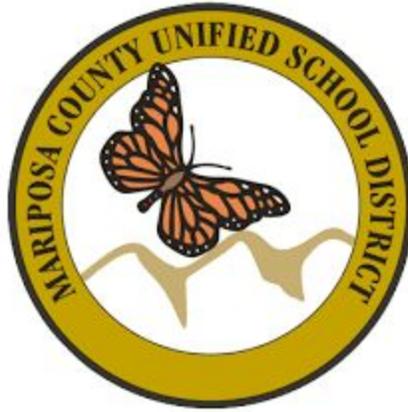


MARIPOSA COUNTY
OFFICE OF EDUCATION



MARIPOSA COUNTY
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

PLAN FOR PROVISION OF
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO EXPELLED STUDENTS

TRIENNIAL UPDATE
JUNE 30, 2018



MARIPOSA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
AND MARIPOSA COUNTY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
EDUCATIONAL PLAN FOR PROVISION OF
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO EXPELLED STUDENTS

Triennial Update
2018-2021

The Mariposa County Unified School District and the Mariposa County Office of Education are separate Local Educational Agencies. However, Mariposa County Unified School District is the only district served by the Mariposa County Office of Education. The services described below address the needs of expelled students from both MCUSD and MCOE.

Overview

The Mariposa County Unified School District fosters a learning environment which reinforces the concepts of self-discipline and the acceptance of personal responsibility. We recognize that not all students will adhere to district rules for appropriate behavior. Sufficient support services shall be provided so that continually disruptive students will not be returned to regular classes without some modification of behavior.

The administration, teachers and classified staff share the mutual responsibility for student conduct and safety and the enforcement of district policies and regulations. Discipline is handled equitably throughout the school district. Corrective action is taken whenever a student violates the discipline rule of the school or district. Various levels of consequences may be implemented prior to suspension. Consequences may include conferences, behavior contracts, recess restriction, detention, and on-campus suspension. Continued violations or acts of a severe nature may lead to suspension or expulsion.

All students who are involuntarily transferred or expelled to the Alternative Education Complex are placed under a Discipline Contract which is written by the Alternative Education Principal/Categorical Programs Director. The contract specifies behavioral and performance standards established for the student. When the circumstance of the contract is based on an expulsion, the contract will include the terms of the Rehabilitation Plan of the pupil's Expulsion Order. Sanctions for failure to meet the contract standards are also specified in the contract. A copy of the Discipline Contract is attached (Attachment A).

Existing Educational Alternatives for Expelled Pupils
Mariposa County Unified School County (MCOE) Programs

Mariposa County Community School

Student Served: Grades 9-12

- The instructional program is based on the MCUSD curriculum and academic graduation requirements.
- Instruction is provided through a seat-based model where students are given course assignments on a daily basis. Their progress is determined by the completion of assignments as determined by the teacher. An independent study model is also available.
- This program serves grades 9-12.
- For Special Education students, instructional services are provided by the County Community School which has two components: the Independent Study model and a seat-based program. Supplementary instructional support is provided based upon the student's IEP, provided by the regular classroom teacher in conjunction with the District RSP teacher and under the direction of the Director of Special Education.
- Transportation is provided for eligible seat-based students, but is not provided for the independent study model of the County Community School via the Mariposa County Unified School District transportation system.

Elementary Opportunity Class

Students Served: K-8

- MCOE Elementary Opportunity Class (EOC) provides a daily, seat-based program based on MCUSD curriculum and academic requirements.
- This program allows for the differentiation of younger students from the high school age students.
- Special Education services are based upon the student's IEP, provided by the regular classroom teacher in conjunction with the District RSP teacher and under the direction of the Director of Special Education.
- Transportation is provided for the EOC via the Mariposa County Unified School District transportation system.

Existing Educational Alternatives for Expelled Pupils
Mariposa County Unified School District (MCUSD) Programs

Community Day School

Student Served: Grades 9-12

- Special notation on Community Day Schools: Mariposa County Unified School District has suspended the use of the Community Day School Program. The district reconfigured the alternative education program during the 2015-2018 goals setting session. In line with this evaluation, the district has evaluated expulsion proceedings for more serious violations and alternative strategies for education code violations that are minor offenses and discretionary in nature. The district continues to make progress in its effort to reduce the overall expulsion rate in Mariposa County.

Other Educational Options for MCOE/MCUSD

Suspended Expulsion Enforcement

- The Mariposa County Governing Board of Trustees authorizes suspended enforcement options upon the ratification of an expulsion, as prescribed by education code and when warranted. A suspended enforcement may result in the following educational options:
 - Suspended enforcement of the expulsion with the placement of the student at their current school site under a rehabilitation plan.
 - Suspended enrichment with a placement at the Continuation School, County Community School or Elementary Opportunity Class under a rehabilitation plan.
 - Suspended enrichment through an independent study option and under a rehabilitation plan, if allowed by the Administrative Hearing Panel and chosen as an option by the parents of the pupil.

*Special Education services are based upon the student's IEP and are incorporated into the educational program and rehabilitation plan.

2018-2020 Behavioral Intervention

Practices & Strategies

The Mariposa County Unified School District and Mariposa County Office of Education acknowledges that suspensions and expulsions may be required; however, neither are the primary tactic when looking for a positive school climate or in maximizing educational opportunities. The district and county aspire to incorporate behavior prevention and intervention strategies and practices as the first step in reducing the rate of suspensions and expulsions at all schools in county and district jurisdiction.

Best Practices of Behavioral Intervention

Approaches for MCOE/MCUSD

Mariposa County Unified School District and County Office of Education work closely together with school sites, the Special Education Department, and with county agencies to help support students and their learning environment.

MCUSD and MCOE utilize multiple support strategies to minimize the number of suspensions and expulsions in the district through prevention and intervention strategies.

- Beginning in the 2017-18 school year, the school district has partnered with the Mariposa County Human Services Department to receive Behavioral Services Grant, designed to fund additional counseling services that have reduced suspension rates and increased graduation rates.
- The district received a grant that has enabled us to hire a Student Welfare/Attendance Specialist that works to coordinate county agency supports for our students as well as ensure that they attend school consistently. This position also works to coordinate the SARB process.
- At the site level, Student Study Teams (SST's) are created when a student's behavior warrants site intervention. The SST involves both the student and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) to create a collaborative effort to help the student and the negative behavior.
- Beginning in the 2018-19 school year, the school district hired a full time Student Services/Alternative Education Coordinator, adding a dedicated staff member to the Student Services Department. This staff member will provide more focus on alternative education programs, student assistance, intervention, and efficient and effectual SARB and expulsion processes to minimize suspensions and expulsions and to maximize support. In the 2015-16 school year, only one (1) new expulsion recommendation was brought to the school board for review. This was a direct result of change being implemented through the Student Services department review of site-level incidents and discipline procedures.
- When a meeting, contract or change in placement becomes necessary for a student, an academic assessment is made to help best determine the needs of the student academically. This information and evaluation is provided by staff at both school sites to ensure the best collaboration in planning and assistance.
- An Indian Educational Liaison is available in the district to provide additional support to families of American Indian heritage.
- The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act ensures educational rights and protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness. The Student Services Department provides support and resources to the school districts in the Mariposa County Unified School District to implement McKinney-Vento. The Student Services department facilitates enrollment, attendance, and success in school of homeless children and youth. Liaisons are provided throughout the district to assist homeless youth while enrolled in Mariposa County Schools.

- Beginning in the 2018-19 school year, the school district hired a full time Foster/Homeless Youth Coordinator. This position aims to facilitate the enrollment, attendance and success of foster/homeless youth students.

Best Practices

Support for Minority Students

These combined approaches serve to effectively improve negative behavior in many cases, and the strategies are used to minimize expulsions and to strongly support students before and after expulsions.

These programs and procedures are provided to all students in the district and school sites unilaterally. While disciplinary decisions remain individualized depending on the gravity of the circumstances, consideration of how to maximize student success is a priority. Policies and practices to prevent, intervene, suspend and expel are uniformly applied and students are given fair and equitable educational services and opportunity to succeed. Intentional discrimination is prohibited in any form and consistency in policies will at all times be enforced through sites and be under review of the Human Resources and Student Services departments through the county office regularly. Assessment of programs and policies are regularly conducted.

The methods of investigation used in all situations that may lead to discipline measures will be applied by well-trained administrative staff and only sufficient evidence will be used in discipline determination. When infractions of equal caliber and unvarying circumstances occur (for instance, number of past offences, age at time of offence), and when and where the offence occurred and the relation it has to the disruption of educational process does not differ," the method of determining discipline will also not vary and students will be fairly treated and to ensure compliance in these procedures throughout the year, so that best practices are well-understood. Administration is responsible to train staff at their school site(s) so that all staff is trained appropriately.

Supplemental Programs

MCOE/MCUSD Students

The following programs or services are available throughout the county/district:

- Counseling services through the Mariposa County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services.
- Community services for specified students and for those who are on probation.
- Mariposa County Probation Department programs.

County and District Gaps

Strategies for Providing Educational Services

Special Education Students

GAP Identified in 2015:

- Alternative Education programs do not offer a wide variety of placement options for Special Education students recommended for expulsion or suspended expulsion.

2015 Strategies Implemented:

- Through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant, the addition of a Behavior Specialist will provide behavior support at all sites, for special education students as well as the entire student populace. The specialist will enhance staff trainings and provide positive behavior support.
- The overall expansion of behavior support programs throughout the county and the partnership that has been gained with Mariposa County Probation Department is valued to provide ever-growing community support.

2018 Outcomes:

- Mariposa County successfully hired a Behavior Specialist using the JAG grant funds for on (1) year. After one year, staff determined it would be more viable for a Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) to provide the services needed to address behavioral support programs at each site. The TOSA helped enhance staff trainings and provide positive academic and behavioral support.

Young Expectant Minors Programs for Pregnant Teens

GAP Identified in 2015:

- No specific programs exist in MCUSD/MCOE for pregnant teens.

2015 Strategies Implemented:

- Mariposa County plans to continue the employment of the full time counselor and to have services reach both the Special Education Department and the Alternative Education Program. This position has been successful and will continue to be successful when working in conjunction with the Behavior Specialist in the 2015 school year. Evaluation at the end of the JAG grant will determine if a restructure of counseling and behavior services will be warranted at the time of the next triennial.
- In 2015, expectant teen mothers will enroll at the continuation school on a modified schedule in order to provided educational support and expand support strategies to assist teen mothers.

2018 Outcomes:

- Students may remain in their current placement.
- Students may enroll at the continuation school.
- Students may enroll in independent study if the student's parent or guardian chooses this optional program.

- Students may be referred to Mariposa Mariposa County Human Services Department.

*County agencies are a valuable and helpful resource in such cases, and continued outreach and partnership with county agencies is beneficial to MCUSD and MCOE students.

Expelled Students Who Are Elementary School Age (numbers are very limited)

GAP Identified in 2015:

- Due to the small and scattered numbers, no Community Day Class (District-operated) exists. K-8 Community School (county-operated) serves some students.

2015 Strategies Implemented:

- As part of a restructure plan in January 2015, Mariposa County Unified School District no longer provides the option of a Community Day School Program for students. County Community School has been restructured to include grades 7-8 should there be the need due to the expulsion of a student, and EOC options remain available; however, the strategy of minimizing expulsion county-wide to only the most severe offences requires that expulsions of students in grades 4-8 continue to be managed under additional scrutiny through the Student Services Department to ensure that it is warranted. Consideration for alternative placements and increasing support are strategies used to minimize expulsions and disruption to the educational services provided to each student.

2018 Outcomes:

- Mariposa County has successfully reduced the number of expulsions that are recommended by school site administrators. Utilizing other means of corrections, MCUSD has not had to utilize the expulsion process to address any K-8 student behavior over the past three years. Therefore, MCUSD utilize an Educational Opportunity Program to address any K-8 expulsions in the future, and separating the previous 7-12 program into a K-8 EOC and a 9-12 County Community School.

Failure to Meet the Terms and Conditions of a Rehabilitation Plan or Posing a Danger to Other District Pupils

Though no longer providing the educational option of a Community Day School, Mariposa County continues to plan for situations in which a student may fail to meet the terms and conditions of a rehabilitation plan or who may continue to pose a danger to their pupils. All expelled student placements are evaluated at the end of the expulsion period, the student and parent must enter into a discipline contract with the Assistant Superintendent of District Operations.

Students who have failed their placement/rehabilitation program within county programs, or who continue to pose a danger to other pupils are recommended for an expulsion extension to the board in the same placement for an additional term, with supplemental support systems

in place and a revistation of the rehabilitation plan in order to assist the student in being able to return to their regular educational placement.

The Mariposa County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services staff remains available for visits to the Alternative Education Complex on an as-needed basis. Where appropriate, the student's Probation Officer is consulted to provide input and interventions to ensure the student's success. Based on court action, the expelled student may be placed in a group home setting in another county.

Regional Perspective for Mariposa County Office of Education

Regionally, Mariposa County Office of Education (MCOE) consists of one school district, the Mariposa County Unified School District (MCUSD). The Superintendent of Mariposa schools is the Superintendent for both the county and district schools. Due to the smaller nature of the district and county, communication is expedited between schools, the district, and the county to ensure more collaboration and response for expelled students. Also due to the smaller nature of the district and county, Mariposa works closely in collaboration with county representative and private agencies to provide as many services as possible and to create a support network for the students who are expelled from Mariposa County Schools.

Mariposa County Unified School District

5082 Old Highway, P. O. Box 8,
Mariposa, California 95338

STUDENT BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE CONTRACT

The terms and conditions of this contract have been determined by the District Hearing Officer resulting from the recommendation of the identified student for violation of district discipline and attendance policies.

Student Name _____ Grade ___ DOB _____
Parent Name: _____
Address: _____ Phone _____

Date of violation: See Discipline History Dates of Suspension:

Prior suspensions:	EC Violation	Date of Suspension
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____

Contract Terms and Conditions:

The District Hearing Officer of MCUSD has determined that the above-named student shall be permitted to begin attendance at the School based on compliance with the following conditions:

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES		PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES	
X	1. Attend all classes	X	1. Ensure student attendance at school
X	2. Follow all school rules and district policies	X	2. Provide verification of all student absences.
X	3. Demonstrate respect for students and school personnel.	X	3. Cooperate with school officials by following directions and providing information requested.
X	4. Cooperate with school officials by following directions and providing information requested.		4. Arrange for required counseling and student support services.
	5. Attend conflict resolution and/or anger management program.		ADDITIONAL CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS
	6. Obtain counseling services for identified conditions	X	1. Receive no site or bus discipline referrals or suspensions.
X	7. Complete all class assignments in a timely manner.	X	2. Maintain adequate progress towards graduation with a minimum "C" average in all classes.
X	8. Other student requirements	X	3. Maintain good attendance with no unexcused tardies or absences.

Comments:

This contract shall be in effect for the period of _____

Violation of one or more of the above-identified conditions will result in an immediate recommendation for expulsion or retention of the student at school for a period to be determined by the Alternative Education Principal/Categorical Programs Director.

I agree to the terms and conditions of this contract. I understand that my failure to comply with this contract will result in my being recommended for expulsion from the district.

Signatures

Student

Parent/Guardian

Date

Principal

District Hearing Officer

Date