
THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1230
Author: Bonta (D), et al.
Amended: 7/3/25 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 7/2/25

AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Laird

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/29/25

AYES: Caballero, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 6/2/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Pupil discipline: expulsions: procedures

SOURCE: Alameda County Office of Education
National Center of Youth Law

DIGEST: This bill makes several changes to the components and procedures for the development and review of a rehabilitation plan for a student who is subject to an expulsion order. This bill also specifies data collection and reporting requirements related to expulsions for school districts and county offices of education (COEs).

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Requires the governing board of a school district to establish rules and regulations governing procedures for the expulsion of students, which must include, among other items, all of the following:
 - a) The student's right to a closed session hearing within 30 schooldays to determine whether they should be expelled conducted by the governing

board of the school district or under contract with a county hearing officer or the Office of Administrative Hearings;

- b) Within 10 schooldays of the hearing, the school district must decide whether to expel the student unless the student requests a postponement, or within 40 days under specified conditions;
 - c) The provision of written notice of the hearing to be provided to the student at least 10 calendar days prior and must include the date and place of the hearing; the specific facts and charges; the school district's disciplinary rules; parent/guardian/student's obligations; the right to be represented by legal counsel, to inspect and obtain copies of all documents to be used at the hearing, to confront and question all witnesses who testify at the hearing, to question all other evidence presented, and to present oral and documentary evidence on the pupil's behalf, including witnesses;
 - d) Final action to expel a student must be taken by the governing board of the school district in a public session, and written notice must be provided to the student or the student's parent or guardian and be accompanied by all of the following: a notice of the right to appeal the expulsion to the county board of education; notice of the education alternative placement to be provided to the student during the period of the expulsion; and the obligation of the parent, guardian, or the student to inform the new school district of the student's expulsion.
 - e) The maintenance of records of each expulsion, including the cause for expulsion, which must be recorded in the student's interim record and forwarded to any school in which the student subsequently enrolls upon request. (Education Code (EC) § 48918)
- 2) Requires the governing board to ensure that an educational program is provided to a student who is subject to an expulsion order for the period of the expulsion; authorizes any educational program provided to expelled students to be operated by the school district, the county superintendent of schools, or a consortium of districts, or in joint agreement with the county; prohibits the educational program being provided to be situated on the grounds of the school from which the student was expelled; and prohibits the program offered to a student expelled from kindergarten to grade 6 to be combined with a program offered to students in grades 7 to 12. (EC § 48916.1)

- 3) Requires that an expulsion order remains in effect until the governing board orders the readmission of the student; requires the board to set a date not later than the last day of the semester following the semester in which the expulsion occurred, when the student is to be reviewed for readmission to a school maintained by the district; requires the governing board to recommend a plan of rehabilitation for the student at the time of the expulsion order, which may include recommendations for improved academic performance, tutoring, special education assessments, job training, counseling, employment, community service, or other rehabilitative programs; requires, upon completion of the readmission process, the board to readmit the student unless they find that the student has not met the conditions of the rehabilitation plan or continues to pose a danger to campus safety or to other students or employees of the school district; requires if the board denies readmission of an expelled student, they must continue the placement of the student in the alternative educational program originally selected, or place the student in another program serving expelled students, including a county community school. (EC § 48916)
- 4) Requires each school district to maintain the specified data on expulsion and suspension and to report this data as a part of the coordinated compliance review, if requested by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI). (EC § 48916.1)
- 5) Defines “expulsion” as the removal of a student from the immediate supervision and control, or the general supervision, of school personnel. (EC § 48925)
- 6) Requires each county superintendent of schools in counties that operate community schools to develop a plan for providing education services to all expelled students in that county, identify existing educational alternatives for expelled students, identify gaps in services, and identify strategies for filling those gaps. Also requires the plan to identify alternative placements for students who fail to meet the rehabilitation plan or who pose a danger to other district students. Requires these plans be submitted to the SPI no later than June 30, 1997, and be updated and submitted every three years thereafter. (EC § 48926)

This bill:

- 1) Requires the governing board of a school district to recommend a plan of rehabilitation for a student at the time of the expulsion order that includes an assessment for readmission at least 45 days before the end of the expulsion term.

- 2) Authorize the rehabilitation plan to be developed in consultation with school personnel who have knowledge or special expertise regarding the student, rather than requiring their consultation.
- 3) Requires the governing board of a school district to assist the student in locating opportunities accessible to the student that are necessary to complete the requirements of the rehabilitation plan, including but not limited to, opportunities for counseling and community services.
- 4) Prohibits the governing board of the school district from requiring the student or their parent or guardian, to pay for any costs it deems necessary to complete a plan for rehabilitation.
- 5) Requires the governing board of the school district to adopt rules and regulations establishing a procedure for the transition process for readmitted pupils.
- 6) Requires the governing board, in the rehabilitation review procedure to include an indication of whether or not the student had access to the necessary resources to complete their rehabilitation plan.
- 7) Prohibits the denial of a student's request for readmission on the basis of a rehabilitation plan not being completed due to financial or transportation barriers or a lack of viable opportunities to complete the plan.
- 8) Removes as a condition to deny readmission that the student continues to pose a danger to campus safety or to other pupils or employees of the school district.
- 9) Requires the governing board to readmit a student upon the completion of the readmission review process, unless the governing board makes a finding that a student:
 - a) Has not substantially met the conditions of the rehabilitation plan despite having access to the necessary resources and viable opportunities to complete their rehabilitation plan; or
 - b) Continues to exhibit documented behaviors that the student was expelled for or is documented to have committed one or more new acts during the expulsion term that would make the student eligible for another expulsion.

- 10) Authorizes the expulsion term of a student to be extended for one semester at a time, if the student is not readmitted pursuant to #9 above. If the student has not been readmitted, the student shall be reassessed for readmission, pursuant to the procedures developed by the governing board.
- 11) Requires the governing board to review educational options for expelled students with the student and their family before the expulsion order is finalized, and requires that the initial referral of the student for enrollment in an educational program be completed within three days after the expulsion.
- 12) Adds to the outcome data that a school district must maintain pertaining to expulsions, all of the following:
 - a) The disposition of the pupil after the end of the period of expulsion, including the completion of a rehabilitation plan or the successful readmission of the pupil, or both; and
 - b) The average length of expulsion terms, including any extensions.
- 13) Removes an existing reference to a penalty for non-reporting as the relevant cross-section has been repealed.
- 14) Requires the county office of education (COE) to notify the school district if they are unable to serve the expelled students, and requires, upon such notification, the school district to ensure that another educational program is provided to the student, and requires that the school district review the educational options available with the student and their parent or guardian.
- 15) Expands the requirements of the triennial plan update that each county superintendent of schools that operates community schools must develop, to include the provision of services that may be required in an expelled student's individualized education program (IEP) or 504 plan. Also requires the plan to additionally do the following:
 - a) Identify multiple educational programs and services;
 - b) Outline a timely readmission process after the expulsion term is complete; and

- c) Describe the steps to be taken by the school district, in collaboration with the COE, to support the successful transition of a student upon readmission.

Comments

- 1) *Need for this bill.* According to the author, “AB 1230 strengthens expulsion rehabilitation plans to ensure that California’s most vulnerable students receive the support they need to return to their home schools. In 2023-24, over 4,000 students were expelled. These students are some of our most underserved and at highest risk for poor academic outcomes. Without meaningful rehabilitation, these students risk falling into the school-to-prison pipeline, leading to lower academic achievement and higher incarceration rates. This bill ensures that rehabilitation plans are tailored to students' needs, removes financial and transportation barriers, and limits prolonged expulsion terms. It also mandates clear readmission pathways, transition support, and the use of expulsion data to improve district policies. AB 1230 prioritizes education over exclusion, providing expelled students with the resources necessary to succeed.”
- 2) *Expulsion Rehabilitation Plans.* The body of law governing expulsion rehabilitation plans, EC § 48916, is objectively sparse when recognizing how consequential the design and completion of the plan may be in an expelled student’s educational journey. At the time that an expulsion is ordered against a student, existing law requires the governing board of the student’s home school to set a date upon which the student shall be reviewed for readmission and recommend a plan of rehabilitation for the student. Upon completion of the readmission process, the governing board must readmit the student unless the board makes a finding that the student has not met the conditions of their rehabilitation plan or they continue to pose a danger to campus safety or other students or employees of the school district. The law authorizes the rehabilitation plan to include a periodic review, an assessment at the time of review for readmission, and recommendations for improved academic performance, tutoring, special education assessments, job training, counseling, employment, community service, or other rehabilitative programs. Beyond these authorizations, existing law provides no structure for creating a student-centered rehabilitation plan.

According to the bill’s co-sponsor, the Alameda County Office of Education:

“Current law offers very limited guidance to school districts regarding the development of rehabilitation plans to support the successful return of expelled

students to their home district school or appropriate alternative. At present, plans may fail to address specific behaviors that led to the expulsion or may not be tailored to the needs of the student. Currently, plans may require services the student must complete at the family's expense or include community service requirements without access to transportation.

“AB 1230 will support improved outcomes for expelled students by requiring that rehabilitation plans address the behavior leading to the expulsion and are responsive to the student's needs, and that districts provide students and their families with vital information regarding program enrollment and readmission following expulsion...”

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- This bill could result in Proposition 98 General Fund costs ranging in the tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands of dollars for local educational agencies (LEAs) and their governing boards to fulfill the additional requirements for student rehabilitation plans and comply with the bill's data collection and reporting requirements. While there are approximately 4,000 expelled students in a given year, the costs for each LEA would vary depending on the exact number of its expulsions. The bill's requirements could be deemed to be a state reimbursable mandate.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/29/25)

Alameda County Board of Education (co-source)

National Center for Youth Law (co-source)

ACLU California Action

Alameda County Office of Education

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California Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

California Alliance for Youth and Community Justice

California Alliance of Child and Family Services

California Faculty Association

California School Employees Association

California Youth Empowerment Network

California-Hawaii State Conference of the NAACP

Californians for Safety and Justice

Courage California

East Bay Community Law Center
Easterseals Northern California
EdVoice
Freedom 4 Youth
Los Angeles County Office of Education
Madera County Superintendent of Schools
Oakland Unified School District
Office of the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools
Santa Clara County Office of Education
Seneca Family of Agencies
The W. Haywood Burns Institute
United Administrators of Southern California
Youth Alliance

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/29/25)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 6/2/25

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: DeMaio, Sanchez

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8/30/25 16:11:14

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