

Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District

Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) has a clearly delineated process for the expulsion of students. Our process provides full due process for each student and their families in this challenging situation. The focus is on making decisions that will provide the student with opportunities to continue to make progress toward positive academic and behavior outcomes.

The Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District believes it is essential that students enjoy a secure learning environment, with a sense of order and high expectations. We believe that schools can support families in helping students develop a sense of personal responsibility. Discipline guidelines are created to promote consistency in dealing with unacceptable behavior, with an understanding that students are likely to make good choices when they clearly understand the rules and the consequences for engaging in behavior that is not appropriate for a school setting.

School discipline should be consistent, reasonable, fair, age appropriate, and matched to the severity of the student's misbehavior. Consequences that are paired with meaningful interventions, instruction and guidance (corrective feedback and re-teaching) offer students an opportunity to connect their misconduct with new learning, participate in contributing back to the school community, and are more likely to result in re-engaging the student in learning. Any use of consequences should be carefully implemented with well-defined outcomes in order to provide the greatest benefit

The following are the descriptions of the District's existing educational alternatives for expelled students.

Expelled Students (Grades 6 to 12)

Students in grades 6 to 12 who are expelled for serious incidents where expulsion is mandatory are referred to Alameda County Community Schools. These schools and programs are especially designed to educate expelled students and offer a variety of classroom-based and independent student options to meet the student's needs. Participation in mental health services may be recommended or required.

Expelled Students (Grades K to 5)

Students in grades K to 5 who are expelled are placed on suspended expulsion and transferred to another school within the District. For some students, a transfer to another comprehensive site allows a student a new start, or access to services that may not be available at the previous school site.

Suspended Expulsions (Grades K to 12)

In certain expulsion cases, suspending the expulsion order and allowing the student to attend school in the District is more appropriate than expelling the student to an out-of-District school. Placement in every expulsion matter is determined on a case-by-case basis, and placement recommendations are made based on the incident, the student's background and history, the safety of the student and others, as well as all applicable Board Policies, Administrative Regulations and California Education Codes. During the term of the suspended enforcement of the School Board's expulsion order, the student is on a probationary basis, and must meet certain conditions to continue enrollment or the suspension of enforcement of the expulsion is revoked, and the student is placed in an appropriate alternative educational setting.

Transfer to another school within the District

Due to age constraints with programs offered through Alameda County Community schools students in grades kindergarten through 5th grade may be involuntarily placed at another school in the District. Students in grades 6 to 12 may be placed at another middle or high school in the District. This provides the student with a fresh start. Students who receive special education services may be referred to a school in the District where their educational needs are met in accordance with their IEP. The student is placed at another school in the District with probationary conditions outlined in the rehabilitation plan. Students have a period of time, up to a year, to meet the conditions and be considered for a return to the program from which they were expelled.

Inter-District Transfer to another school District

The only time a student is involuntarily transferred to another school District is if the student is currently in LVJUSD on an Inter-District transfer and commits an expellable offense or does not meet the academic, attendance, and behavior expectations of the District. In these cases, the Inter-District transfer is revoked and the student is returned to his/her home District. A student may be allowed to transfer to another school District only if both the family and the Districts agree that placement in another District is in the best interest of the student.

Continuation High School - Voluntary

Students may be placed at Del Valle Continuation High School as an alternative educational setting. The program provides a lower teacher to student ratio, an opportunity to make up credit deficiencies, and a setting designed to deal with at-risk students. The District, Hume Center, Horizons, La Familia and Axis Community Health provide mental health counseling services. Horizons provides career exploration speakers and one of our senior English teachers offers a transition class to help students transition to college or career. They provide a career pathway in culinary arts in which the students test, qualify and earn the food handler's certificate as well as

learn entry level culinary skills. Students are encouraged to enroll in ROP classes at the local high schools.

Independent Study – Voluntary

Vineyard Alternative School is a school of choice that offers an independent study educational program. Students in grades one through twelve have access to the curriculum and learning opportunities through the State-approved independent study model. Students are assigned weekly appointments to meet with content area teachers to receive instruction. Therefore, students can be expected to be on campus one to three times per week based on the courses they are taking and their scheduled meetings which are at least forty-five minutes long each. Students are also offered the opportunity to attend a support class and math tutoring if they are in need of additional academic assistance. High school students are expected to complete at least twenty credits per trimester or sixty credits per school year in order to be on track to graduate. They also have the opportunity to recover credits or work at an accelerated pace as well as concurrently enroll at our local community college to further their education.

Adult Education

When age appropriate, students transfer to the Adult Education program to work on a high school diploma or prepare for the GED exam. Students attend classes at least two times per week where they have the opportunity to work one-on-one with credentialed teachers. Both the adult high school diploma and the GED preparation classes are taught using a blended learning model where students use online programs to access curriculum and assessments to earn credits and/or prepare them for the GED exam. Occasionally, these students also take concurrent classes at the local junior college.

Home Study Program

The Home Study program is used for students in particular situations and special education whose needs cannot be met at our Independent Study site. A home teacher works with the student one hour per day, five times per week. The home teacher works with the case manager at the student's home site, modifying the work as appropriate.

Specialized Placement or Program

In some cases, expelled students are placed in or referred to specialized programs. Placement is informed by the student's needs and their IEP. Students who commit offenses that are a manifestation of their disability are not expelled but may be placed into an educational environment that is supportive of their needs and in compliance with their IEP.

LVJUSD anger management through Horizon's Counseling, offers a Violence Prevention Program for students who have engaged in high risk behaviors. Students who are on extended suspension pending an expulsion hearing are required to participate.

Referral to County Operated Community School

Students are referred to an Alameda County Community School program when expelled by the LVJUSD Board. Alameda County has day school and independent study programs available. They can place students in grades 6 – 12; as well as special education students on a case by case basis.

Referral to County Operated Independent Student Program

Students may be allowed to participate in the QUEST independent study program operated by the County Office of Education

In Lieu of Expulsion

In rare cases, an administrative change of placement in lieu of other serious disciplinary outcomes is appropriate for a student.

Rehabilitation Plan, Transition and Support

Students who are expelled receive support from the District. Administrators communicate with families and make referrals for counseling and other social services. In addition, they continue contact with the student about progress made on the Rehabilitation Plan and establish a timeline for returning to the District.