

**EL DORADO COUNTY**

**PLAN FOR PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO EXPELLED STUDENTS**

**APPROVED BY THE EL DORADO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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**El Dorado County Office of Education  
Jeremy M. Meyers, County Superintendent**

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## I. Legislative Overview

California *Education Code (EC)* Section 48926 required 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.

As required, the plan was 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 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 State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The approval of the El Dorado County Board of Education and submission of the plan to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction prior to June 30, 1997 as well as the triennial updates since then satisfy requirements associated with the ‘county plans for provision of educational services to expelled students.’ In addition, this plan shall be distributed to every district superintendent in El Dorado County as required by law.

### Education Code 48926

*Each county superintendent of schools in counties that operate community schools pursuant to Section 1980, in conjunction with superintendents of the school districts within the county, shall develop a plan for providing education services to all expelled pupils in that county. The plan shall be adopted by the governing board of each school district within the county and by the county board of education.*

*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.*

*Each county superintendent of schools, in conjunction with the superintendents of the school districts, shall submit to the Superintendent of Public Instruction the county plan for providing educational services to all expelled pupils in the county no later than June 30, 1997, and shall submit a triennial update to the plan to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, including the outcome data pursuant to Section 48916.1, on June 30th thereafter.*

### Education Code 48916.1

*a) At the time an expulsion of a pupil is ordered, the governing board of the school district shall ensure that an educational program is provided to the pupil who is subject*

*to the expulsion order for the period of the expulsion. Except for pupils expelled pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 48915, the governing board of a school district is required to implement the provisions of this section only to the extent funds are appropriated for this purpose in the annual Budget Act or other legislation, or both.*

## **II. Countywide Educational Service Plan for Expelled Students**

Educational programs within El Dorado County provide excellent opportunities for students who are in need of traditional and/or alternative education programs. Local school districts offer a broad spectrum of services augmented by El Dorado County Office of Education programs, providing a continuum of services to expelled youth.

Early intervention strategies on comprehensive school sites, alternative programs on and off comprehensive school sites, and/or referral to the El Dorado County Office of Education programs respond to student diversity and community needs by providing opportunity for academic success for all kindergarten through twelfth grade public school students living in El Dorado County. El Dorado County Office of Education staff meet with all new school district superintendents and principals to review and coordinate available services, options, and procedures.

Groups of educational leaders meet regularly throughout the year at the El Dorado County Office of Education and throughout the county on a number of topics, including reviewing best practices in serving at-risk youth and families. These groups include, but are not limited to, Superintendents' Council, Curriculum and Instructional Leadership Council, Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment, Secondary Principals, Middle School Principals, Elementary Principals, Child Development, Early Care and Education Planning Council, School Attendance and Review Board, Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA), El Dorado County Charter SELPA, Human Resources, Internal and External Business, Professional Development, First Five El Dorado, Gifted and Talented Coordinators, Emergency Preparedness, Indian Education, Information and Technology Services, Opportunities for Pregnant Minors, Adult Education, Central Sierra Regional Occupational Program, and Sugarloaf Fine Arts Camp.

Each school district provides intervention strategies which include, but are not limited to, providing counseling, student study teams, academic and emotional assessments, parent trainings, in-school suspensions, off-campus suspensions, Special Education services, after school activities, student/parent/school contracts, and a focus on building each student's total school assets as described in the California Healthy Kids Student Survey.

There are students whose behavior constitutes grounds for discipline and possible referral for expulsion from school. Each district may, and in some cases is required, to recommend expulsion to the Governing Board for those students whose behavior endangers other students and/or staff. In addition, each district and the County Office of Education participate with law enforcement agencies in a Memorandum of Understanding that pertains to student behaviors.

Each student whose behavior has resulted in expulsion is given a Rehabilitation Plan designed by each school district that explains the conditions the expelled student must meet in order to return to the District.

### **III. El Dorado County Office of Education Alternatives**

The El Dorado County Office of Education provides a range of educational options for expelled students. The programs described fit the continuum of educational care as outlined. The philosophy of each individual school district affects how the El Dorado County Office of Education will meet the needs of that particular school district. Some school districts use the El Dorado County of Education program as an educational option for those students expelled under a district "no tolerance" policy, while others use this program as a student assistance or placement alternative. The community school is a permissive educational program that provides local school districts with educational options for their expelled youth.

The El Dorado County Office of Education Charter Alternative Programs and K-6 Community School the following options for expelled youth:

- 1) Community School offers daily educational programs that meet for 300 minutes per day in community school classrooms, located throughout El Dorado County.
- 2) The elementary Community School for students in grades K-6 provides a daily educational program that meets for 300 minutes per day at the County Office of Education.
- 3) Contracted study programs that require students in Kindergarten through twelfth grades to complete a minimum of 2,030 hours of educational product weekly.
- 4) Computer assisted and/or on-line courses, including credit recovery and acceleration (remedial to adult levels)
- 5) Community Service/Service Learning Options
- 6) ROP/ Technical Programs
- 7) School-to-Career Options
- 8) G.E.D., C.H.S.P.E. Options
- 9) Counseling options through New Morning Youth and Family Services and El Dorado County Mental Health and Health Department

- 10) Support for Pregnant and Parenting teens
- 11) Work Ready Certificate Program
- 12) Credit Recovery & Acceleration Programs
- 13) *Safe School Ambassadors* Program
- 14) *Love & Logic* Program
- 15) *Positive Behavior & Intervention Support* (PBIS)

#### **IV. El Dorado County School District Alternatives**

All educational alternatives provided by California's school districts are not available to all expelled students. Seriousness of offense, location of offense, and grade level of the student all have the potential to restrict the district level 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 community day school (E.C. 48915.2). All expelled students shall be referred to an educational placement that is 1) not provided at a comprehensive middle, junior or senior high school or any elementary school, and 2) not housed at the school site attended by the student at the time of offense (E.C. 48915). If the expelled student is in grades K-6, the educational placement for the student shall not be merged or combined with educational programs offered to students in grades 7-12 (E.C. 48916.1). In addition to the above listed requirements, such factors as district size, district level alternatives, county level alternatives, and district philosophy can impact the determination by a District Governing Board as to which educational alternatives are appropriate for students who are expelled.

#### **V. Students Who Fail to Meet Their Rehabilitation Plan**

Expelled students who fail to meet the terms and conditions of their rehabilitation plan may be referred to a different district school, a district community day school, or the El Dorado County Office of Education Charter Alternative Programs.

Students who are expelled are referred to an educational program deemed appropriate by the District Governing Board. The District continues to maintain responsibility for developing a Rehabilitation Plan for the student and ensuring that an educational program is provided.

The Charter Alternative Programs maintains a standing policy of accepting all students who have been expelled by their district of residence. Expelled students who are referred to the El

Dorado County Office of Education Charter Alternative Programs are provided with an Individual Learning Plan developed with the student, parents, and Charter staff. Part of this plan may include a goal of returning to the district of residence. Each District is responsible to provide each student with a district expulsion plan clearly defining what the student must do before returning to the District. Individual Learning Plans and strategies are regularly reviewed by Charter staff. Alternative strategies may be developed for those students who have difficulty meeting the terms and conditions of their District designed rehabilitation plan.

## **VI. Review of Gaps and Strategies Identified in 2015, Best Practices, Regional Coordination, and Strategies for Improvement During the Next Three Years**

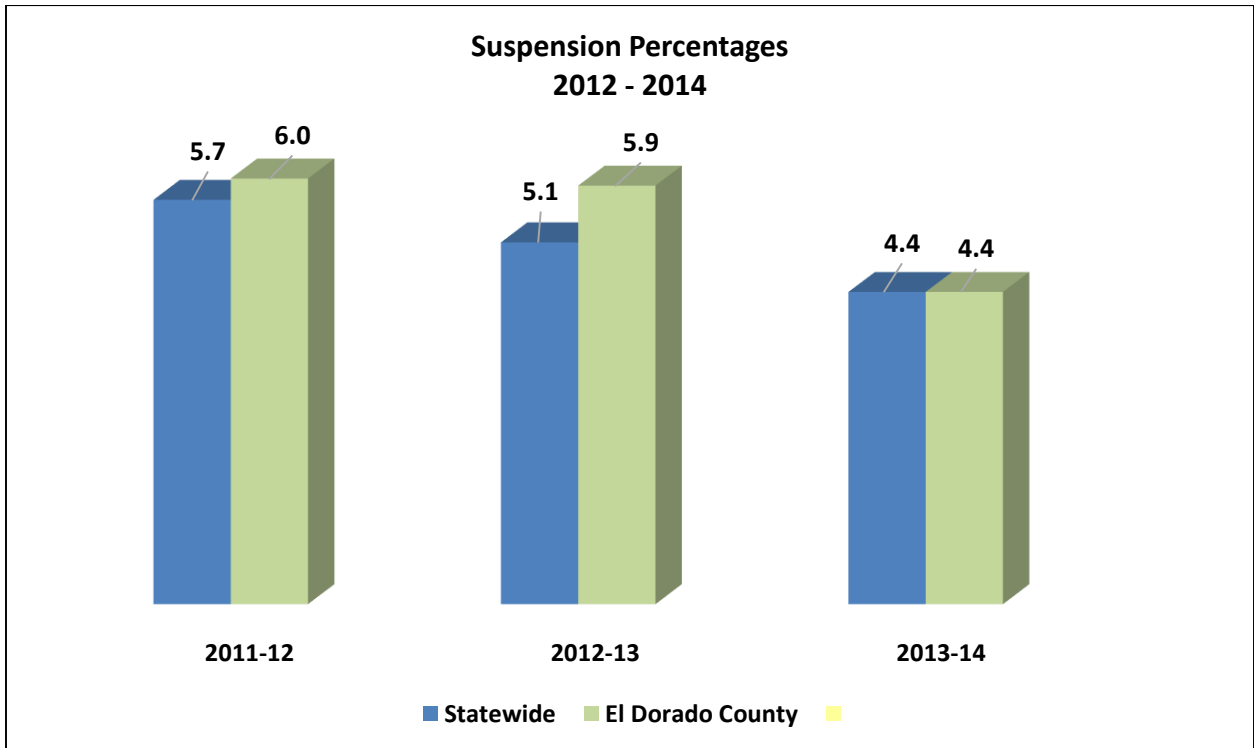
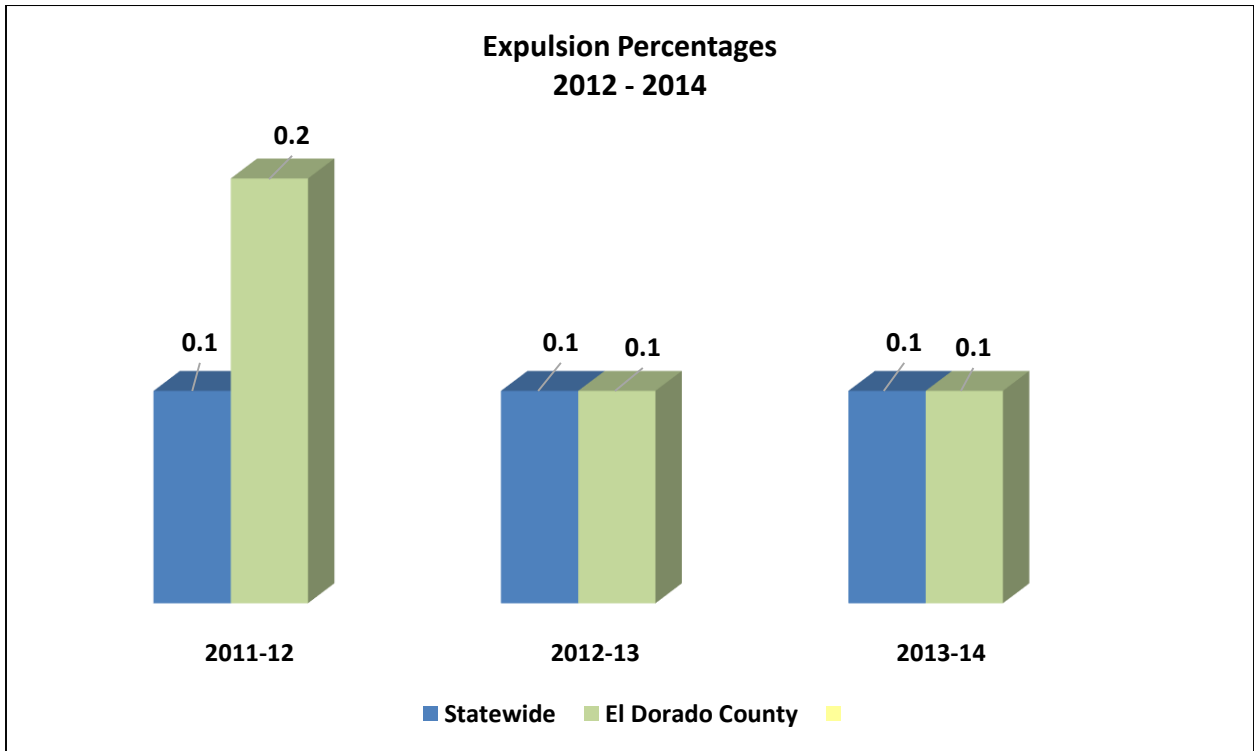
The gaps and areas of challenge in providing countywide expulsion services remain the same as those addressed in 2012. Updates regarding those areas - including best practices, information about regional coordination, and strategies for improvement during the next three years – are all addressed in this section of the countywide services plan.

- a) District enrollment in El Dorado County ranges from approximately 20 students, at rurally located one room schoolhouses, to more than 7,000 students at our largest school district. There are 15 school districts in El Dorado County. This smaller district size, together with the rural characteristics of the county, makes it difficult to offer the range of alternatives often found in the larger urban districts. The strategy for addressing this problem is to continue to maintain the Charter Alternative Programs, which includes a Community School for 7-12<sup>th</sup> graders and a Community School for students in grades K-6. These programs provide educational services to all school districts in the county by employing a variety of instructional strategies, including those that are capable of overcoming obstacles associated with providing educational services in rural, often isolated settings.

### Update, Best Practices, Regional Coordination, and Plans:

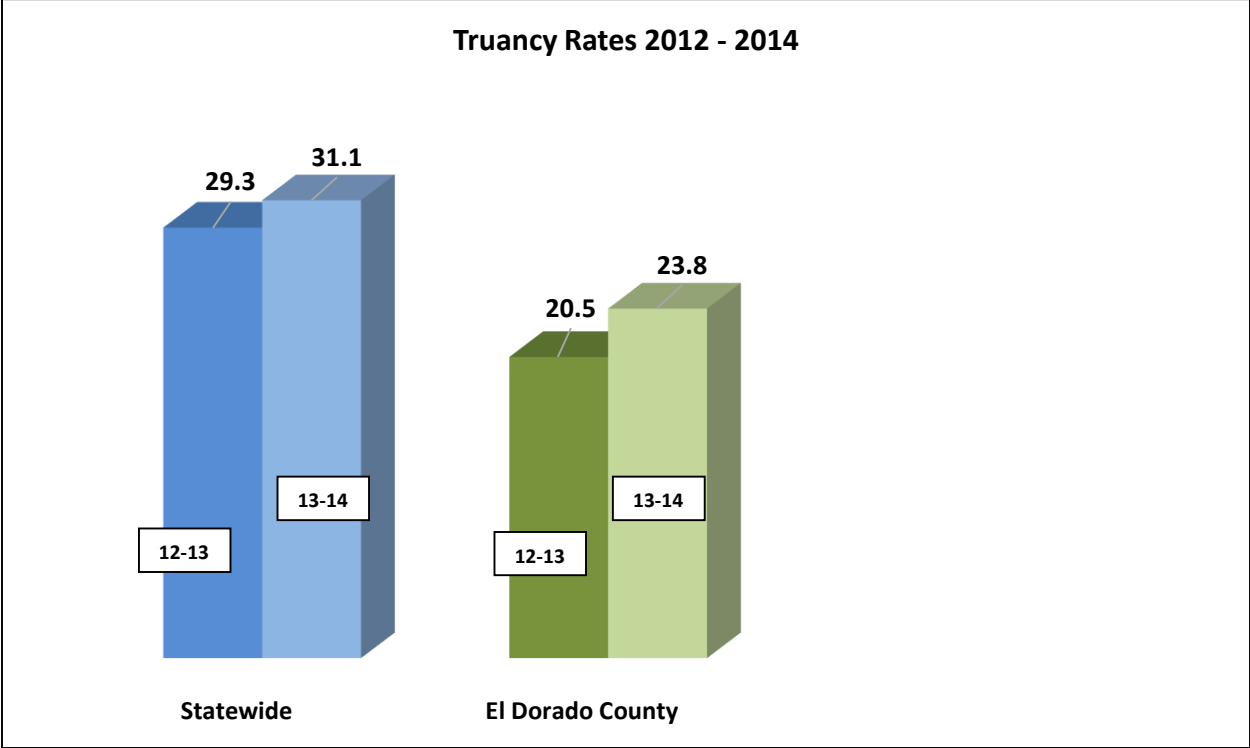
Services for expelled youth continue to be provided and continue to be successful as evidenced by a review of relevant data, including expulsion, suspension, truancy, and drop-out data (see charts that follow). Considering our positive data, we feel that we are providing and managing services for at-risk youth to good effect. We anticipate continuing these services in the next three years.

El Dorado County's expulsion and suspension rates equal that of the state.

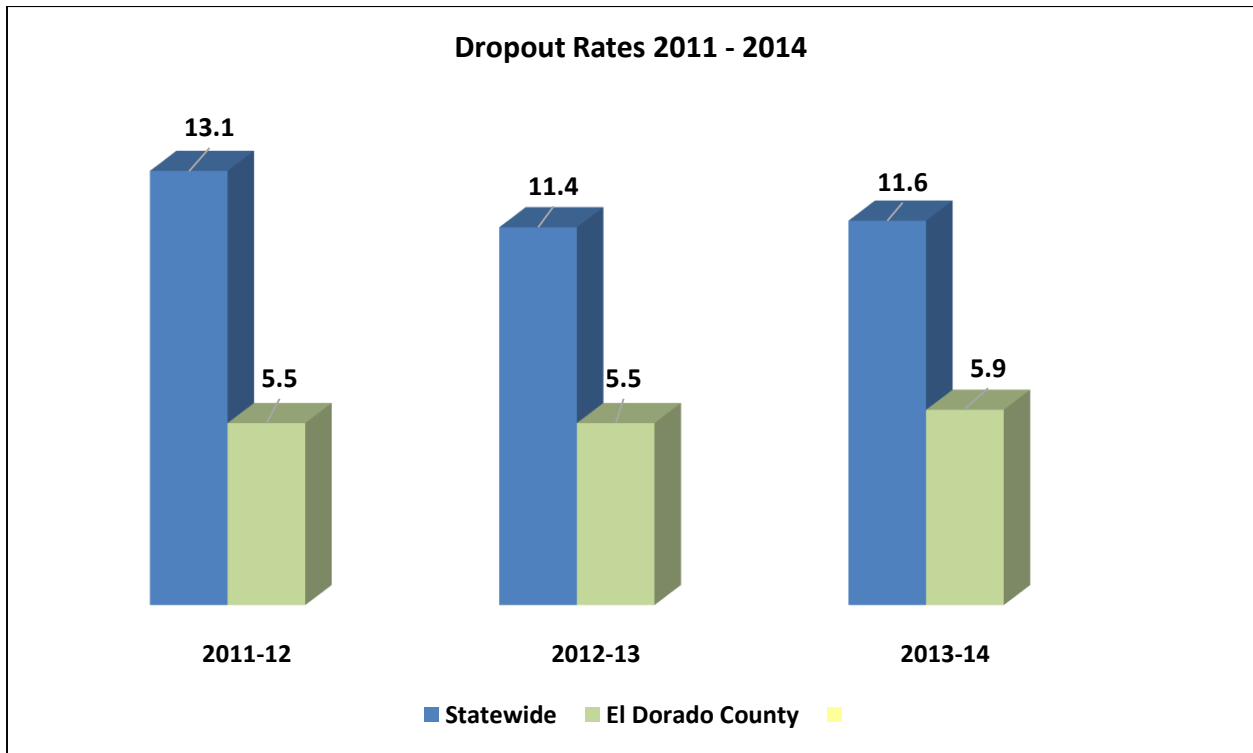




The truancy rate in El Dorado County is considerably lower than the statewide rate. El Dorado County averaged a truancy rate 30% lower than the statewide average in 2012-13. Although truancy rates increased across the state for the 2013-14 school year, the truancy rate in El Dorado County was still 23.5% lower than the statewide average.



El Dorado County students have dropout rates that are significantly lower than the state, averaging generally 50% or less than the state-wide average.



- b) Students who commit an expulsion offense during an expulsion period may have limited alternatives that remain available for placement. The strategy for addressing this problem is to maintain a commitment to providing educational services to students, regardless of repeated offenses, at regional county community schools.

Update, Best Practices, Regional Coordination, and Plans:

Services for expelled youth continue to be successful, and we anticipate continuing these services in the next three years.

- c) Students who are expelled in grades K-6 do not have the same educational alternatives available as students in grades 7-12. Students in grades K-6 are also expelled at a much lower rate than students in grades 7-12. These two factors, together with the requirement that educational services for students in grades K-6 cannot be merged or combined with services to students in grades 7-12, make it difficult to identify an educational placement for the expelled K-6 student. To better meet the needs of these students, the El Dorado County Office of Education established a K-6 Community Day School in the 2006-2007 school year. The program, which now operates as a K-6 Community School at the County Office of

Education, provides educational services to students in grades K-6.

Update, Best Practices, Regional Coordination, and Plans: A K-6 Community School program continues to be operated by the El Dorado County Office of Education, providing quality service for K-6 students through the county. The program partners with our local Indian Education Council to provide counseling services directly at the school site. We anticipate continuing the K-6 program during in the next three years.

- d) In all cases, each school district is responsible to ensure appropriate educational service for its expelled students. The El Dorado County Office of Education and local school districts work collaboratively to create relevant and effective options to ensure that expelled students' educational needs are met.

Update, Best Practices, Regional Coordination, and Plans:

Our local school districts and the El Dorado County Office of Education continue to work closely together to provide applicable and effective options for expelled students. Staff communicate regularly regarding individual students' needs, including coordinating intake meetings and arranging for educational services to help ensure the success of students.

A variety of counseling options are provided to students throughout the county, including counseling services at the county community school through a partnership with the local Indian Education Council.

The El Dorado County Office of Education and local school districts partner closely with county agencies and community-based organizations to plan and provide a broad umbrella of overlapping support services for students and families. This information is provided to families in a number of ways, including during intake and/or student success team meetings, through local agencies, and through the El Dorado County Office of Education website: <http://edcoe.org/>

An annual *Community Based Organization Breakfast* is held each year to inform, facilitate, and coordinate support services, including those provided by government agencies, non-profit organizations, and faith-based groups. Representatives from these groups each speak at the breakfast to provide an update on their respective services and to learn about, and coordinate services with, the other organizations that provide student and family support services. Dozens of these groups are in attendance, including County Mental Health, local law enforcement, Foster Youth Services, Indian Education, School Attendance and Review Board, and school counselors and administrators. New school administrators often attend, and they are provided with this information to better help them support families. The focus of our community based organizations is on providing support services to those students and families who are most at-risk.

This year the El Dorado County Office of Education again partnered with local school

districts to provide a *Foster Youth Services Symposium*. The symposium, which was a great success, brought together many of the aforementioned community agencies and groups to focus on providing improved services to our county's foster students and families.

In the past, the El Dorado County Office of Education and local school districts have partnered to provide Safe Schools Symposiums. The symposiums were extremely well received by school staff attending the event based on post event survey results. The symposiums featured key speaker presentations, including a local Superior court judge and a nationally recognized speaker on at-risk youth. The event also included break-out sessions for school teams on various safety topics, including 'table top' presentations of promising school strategies and programs.

Local school districts and the El Dorado County Office of Education emphasize a focus on building each student's total school assets as described in the California Healthy Kids Student Survey. Indicators of school connectedness come from the [California Healthy Kids Survey \(CHKS\)](#) and the [California Department of Education](#) and include student reports of:

- Caring adults at school
- High expectations by teachers and other adults
- Opportunities for meaningful participation at school
- School connectedness (another summary measure, comparable to a national survey, that includes student reports of being treated fairly, feeling close to people, feeling happy, feeling a part of, and feeling safe at school)

The data is based on the percentage of public school students in grades 7, 9, and 11 who report the total level of assets at their schools. "Total School Assets" is a summary measure that includes student reports of caring adults, high expectations, and meaningful participation.

The data with regard to students in El Dorado County, including minority students, demonstrates a high degree of effectiveness in meeting student needs. Overall, students in El Dorado County report feeling a high level of total school assets at a rate 5% higher than the state average.

As mentioned earlier, we are pleased that services for expelled and at-risk students in El Dorado County continue to be provided effectively - even in the face of significant funding reductions. Considering our positive data, we feel that we are providing and managing services for at-risk youth to good effect, and we anticipate continuing these services in the next three years.