



**AB 1230: EXPULSION REHABILITATION PLAN REFORM**

(Updated – 03.03.25)

**SUMMARY**

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AB 1230 improves expulsion rehabilitation plans by strengthening requirements to ensure that expelled students — some of California’s most vulnerable — receive the support they need to successfully return to their home schools.

**BACKGROUND**

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According to the California Department of Education 4,089 public school students were expelled in 2023-24. These students are some of our most underserved and at highest risk for poor academic outcomes. Black and American Indian/Alaska Native students were expelled at a 4x higher rate than White students, and Hispanic students were expelled at 2x the rate of White students. Students with disabilities were 1.5x more likely to face expulsion, while Foster Youth faced a 4.7x higher likelihood, and unhoused students were 2.7x more likely to be expelled.

When students are removed from the classroom for disciplinary reasons, they are more likely to fall behind, drop out, and enter the juvenile justice system — a pattern known as the “school-to-prison pipeline.” This term refers to the policies and practices that push at-risk students out of school and into the criminal justice system, prioritizing incarceration over education. As a result, these students face lower earning potential, while society bears the costs of higher incarceration rates.

**EXISTING LAW**

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Authorizes a school district governing board to expel a student upon determining that the student committed a specified act (EDC 48915). At the time of expulsion, the board must recommend a rehabilitation plan. School districts are also required to establish procedures for processing readmission requests for expelled students (EDC 48916). School districts must also track and report expulsion data, including the number of students recommended for expulsion (EDC 48916.1). County superintendents, in collaboration with school districts, must develop a triennial plan that includes education services offered to expelled students (EDC 48926).

**PROBLEM**

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While school boards are required to recommend a rehabilitation plan for expelled students, existing law does not provide clear guidance on what these plans should include. As a result, many rehabilitation plans fail to address the behavior that led to expulsion or provide services tailored to the individual students’ needs. Rehabilitation plans may require costly, inaccessible services, like mandatory counseling, and impose unrealistic academic and attendance standards. This can lead to indefinite expulsion terms, keeping students in limited educational programs, reducing their incentive to change behavior, and delaying or preventing their return to their home district. Students and families may also receive little support during critical transition periods when students are most at risk of dropping out. In addition, while school districts must collect expulsion data, they are not required to use this data to inform their triennial plans.

**SOLUTION**

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AB 1230 strengthens expulsion rehabilitation plans by:

1. Requiring plans to be developed by a team of educators, tailored to the student’s needs, and focused on addressing the behavior that led to expulsion.
2. Requiring school districts to help students access the resources needed to complete their plans, ensure financial or transportation barriers do not prevent readmission, and limit the extension of an expulsion term to one additional semester.
3. Requiring school districts and county superintendents to provide services authorized in individualized education plans, and establish a clear readmission process, and outline transition support for expelled students.
4. Requiring school districts to use expulsion data to inform their triennial plans.

**SUPPORT**

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Alameda County Office of Education (co-sponsor)  
National Center for Youth Law (co-sponsor)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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Natalie Pita, *Legislative Assistant*  
[Natalie.Pita@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Natalie.Pita@asm.ca.gov)