

Parent Engagement

Presented by:

George Sanchez, Eastside Union High School District

Julia Alloggiamento, Deputy District Attorney

In this session you will:

- Understand the school disciplinary system
- Gain insight into the juvenile justice system
- Learn about immediate steps parents can do to change their children's destructive behavior

School Disciplinary System

- Suspensions
- Expulsions

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Suspension

- Prior to suspending a student, the Principal must hold an informal conference with parent/guardian:
 - Inform the student of the charges and the evidence against him/her
 - Give the student an opportunity to present his/her version and evidence. [EC 48911(b)]

Suspension

- Student may be suspended without informal conference in "emergency situation": "a clear and present danger to the lives, safety, or health of students, or school personnel"

3 types of expulsions:

- Mandatory
- Quasi-Mandatory
- Discretionary

MANDATORY EXPULSIONS

"THE BIG 5"

- The Principal shall immediately suspend and recommend for expulsion any student found at school or at a school activity to be in violation of: [EC 48915(c)]
- **1) Firearm** - Possessing, as verified by a district employee, or selling or otherwise furnishing a firearm
- **2) Brandishing a *Knife**
- **3) Selling a Controlled Substance**
- **4) Sexual Assault/Battery**
- **5) Possession of an Explosive**

Quasi-Mandatory Expulsions

- Unless the principal finds that expulsion is inappropriate, the principal, or designee shall recommend a student's expulsion:
 - 1) Causing serious physical Injury to another
 - 2) Possession of any knife or other dangerous object
 - 3) Possession of Controlled Substance
 - 4) Robbery/Extortion
 - 5) Assault/Battery Upon a School Employee

DISCRETIONARY EXPULSIONS

- May recommend expulsion for acts at school, while going to or from school, during school activity or while going to/from school activity:
 - (a) Physical Injury (caused threatened or attempted force or violence)
 - (b) Dangerous objects
 - (c) Under the influence of alcohol or other drugs
 - (d) Sale of substance looking like alcohol or drug

DISCRETIONARY EXPULSIONS (Con't)

(e) Robbery/Extortion

(f) Property damage

(g) Theft

(h) Tobacco

(i) Obscenity/profanity/vulgarity

(j) Drug paraphernalia

(k) Disruption/Defiance

(l) Receipt of Stolen Property

DISCRETIONARY EXPULSIONS (Con't)

(m) Imitation firearm (possession)

(n) Sexual Assault or Battery

(o) Harassment, threatening pupil
witnesses

(p) Selling the prescription drug SOMA

(q) Engaged or attempted to engage in
hazing

- 48900.2 – Sexual harassment
- 48900.3 – Hate violence
- 48900.4 – Harassment, threats and intimidation
- 48900.7 – Terroristic threats

Recommendation for suspensions, quasi-mandatory and discretionary expulsions shall be based on one or both of the following:

1. Other means of correction are not feasible or have repeatedly failed to bring about proper conduct or
2. Due to the nature of the act, the presence of the pupil causes a continuing danger to the physical safety of the pupil or others

District Expulsion Process

District Expulsion Conference

- District will invite parent and student to come and meet for a school placement.
- Office of Student Support Services will inform parent and student that the presence of the student at school would cause a danger to persons or property or a threat of disrupting the educational process. (EC 48911 (g))

District Timeline

- An expulsion hearing shall be held within 30 schools days after the date of suspension
- A pupil may request in writing that the hearing be postponed for 30 calendar days
- Within 10 school days after the conclusion of the hearing the governing board shall decide whether to expel the pupil
 - Written notice of the hearing shall be forwarded to the pupil at least 20 calendar days prior to the date of the board hearing

Hearing Panel

- During the fact finding session, panel members are to:
 - Hear the charges
 - Hear the evidence
 - Hear witness testimony
 - Hear the student's defense
 - May question the student/family and the school administrator to clarify information or to seek additional information

The Panel Decision:

- Recommend expulsion if the evidence supports the charges and circumstances support such a recommendation
- If circumstances exist to do so, the panel may recommend a suspension of the expulsion

Recommendation/Finding for Expulsion

- Seriousness of offense (consequence)
- Behavior history
- Intent
- Evidence of understanding of school rules and expectations
- Evidence of the student's presence on campus being a danger to himself and others
- Evidence of other means of correction are not feasible
- Parent/guardian support

Recommendation for a Suspended Expulsion

- Student admits to committing the violation and accepts responsibility
- Lack of multiple disciplinary referrals
- Level of offense/low level of consequence
- Presence of a corrective plan developed by family and student
- Good standing at school

The Juvenile Justice System

■ Presented by:

Deputy District Attorney
Julia Alloggiamento

What we see in Juvenile Justice System

- Youth getting involved in destructive behavior earlier (elementary school) and committing more serious offenses
- Almost all of the behavior described by Mr. Sanchez for suspensions or expulsions are crimes
- In addition to school consequences, students can face criminal charges

Juvenile Court

- Youth prosecuted – consequences
 - Informal probation or diversion
 - Juvenile Justice Court
 - Superior Court Judges
 - Prosecuted by District Attorney
 - Represented by Attorney
 - Probation Officers Make Recommendations
- Goal - Rehabilitation

To be effective - Need to stop behavior EARLY

- Governor's Gang Czar: "73% of adult criminal offenders were juvenile offenders"
- Most juvenile offenders are truants
- Important to recognize early warning signs and take action

Truancy = #1 red flag

- Truancy law and consequences
- LAW
 - 3 or more absences = truant
 - 6 or more = habitually truant and can be prosecuted
- Consequences
 - \$365 fine (litter pick up/ Saturday School)
 - 48 hours community service
 - Lose license for a year

OTHER Consequences

- 90% kids in custody for juvenile delinquency had been truant
- Leads to criminal behavior
 - 12 times more likely commit serious assault
 - 21 times more likely commit property crime
 - 7 times more likely to be arrested
- More likely to use drugs or alcohol
- More likely to have unwanted teen pregnancy
- Gateway to Gangs

Why Do Kids Join Gangs?

- Low self-esteem
- Respect and status
- Sense of belonging
- Peer Pressure
- Environment
 - Neighborhood
 - Protection
 - Family history of gang involvement

Gang Consequences

- Laws – Gang Enhancement Law
 - Provides for greater punishment if crime committed for benefit of or in association with a gang
 - Do not have to be a member of gang for enhancement
 - Can be used in juvenile cases

Top 5 things to change youth's destructive behavior?

1. PARENTS!!!!

2. Education – Stay in School!

3. Community resources (programs)

4. Positive after school activities (sports, clubs)

5. Job placement/training

**What if Parents do not
know how to change?**

Parent Project

What is the Parent Project?

- National program created by and for parents with strong-willed or at risk teens
- Provides proven strategies to deal with adolescent issues and the most destructive behaviors
- Empowers parents to make changes at home

Addresses most difficult “acting out” behaviors

- Poor school attendance and performance
- Behavioral issues
 - both at school and at home
- Gang involvement
- Violence
- Alcohol and drug use
- Running away
- Early teen sexuality
- Suicide (threats and attempts)

Does it work?

- Roseville, CA: Huge reduction in calls for service after families attended Parent Project classes
 - 15 families generated 87 calls for service, 6 months after classes, the same families generated only 4 calls for service

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)

- 33% reduction in juvenile petitions filed
- 20% reduction in juvenile probation drug violations
- 17% drop in school dropout rate
- 72% drop in school expulsions
 - Statistics from OJJDP 2004 Juvenile Justice Journal

How is it *Different?*

- Solution-focused
- Activity-based instruction
- Community collaborative approach
- Built in support group component
- Instills a strong sense of hope

Santa Clara County Parent Project

- Over 500 parents graduated
- Extremely Positive Feedback
 - 99% - would recommend to friend or family
 - 95% gave it highest ranking
 - Grew from 1 pilot to 18 classes countywide

For More Information

- Parent Project Coordinator
- 408-808-3794
- parentproject@da.sccgov.org
- www.parentproject.com