




STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**TO:** Superintendents of Schools  
Executive Directors of Regional Educational Service Centers  
Directors of Public Charter Schools  
Heads of Endowed and Incorporated Academies

**FROM:** Charlene Russell-Tucker, Chief Operating Officer 

**DATE:** August 31, 2018

**SUBJECT:** *Alternative Educational Opportunities for Students Who Have Been Expelled:  
Best Practice Guidelines for Program Implementation*

In 2016, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) issued the *Guidelines for Alternative Education Settings* as required by the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S. 10-74k). In 2018, the CSDE issued *Standards for Educational Opportunities for Students Who Have Been Expelled* (Standards) as required by C.G.S. 10-233d(d)(3). As a follow-up to the Standards, the CSDE is now issuing *Alternative Educational Opportunities for Students Who Have Been Expelled: Best Practice Guidelines for Program Implementation*. These three documents have been developed with broad stakeholder involvement through the Alternative Schools Committee.

The Best Practice Guidelines (attached) consists of eight indicators for best practices regarding the delivery of educational opportunities to students who have been expelled from school. These best practices are described within the following categories: (1) Program Characteristics; (2) Academic and Instructional Supports; (3) Climate and Culture: Discipline, Behavior Management and School Safety; (4) Counseling and Support Services for Socio-Emotional and Life Skill Development; (5) Responsibilities and Training for Educators: Administration, Teachers and Staff; (6) Parent/Guardian and Family Engagement Practices; (7) Transition Planning and Support; and (8) Program Evaluation.

The purpose of the Best Practice Guidelines is to provide districts and schools that have alternative educational opportunities for students who have been expelled additional guidance and ideas for developing effective programming that will support students' continued learning during the period of expulsion. The Best Practice Guidelines take on a whole child approach that focuses on student growth and development and is designed to prepare the students to be productive members of the school and larger community.

Implementing the Standards and the Best Practice Guidelines will ensure that the students who have been expelled will have access to high-quality academic programming, as well as behavioral support services to address the root cause of the expulsion and will position them for future success.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Glen Peterson, Education Division Director, at 860-713-6915 or [glen.peterson@ct.gov](mailto:glen.peterson@ct.gov).

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Attachment