Education Program

I. General Policy

The Juvenile Hall School Program complies with the State of California Education Code and the County Board of Education policies which provides for the administration and operation of juvenile court schools in conjunction with the Chief Probation Officer or designee pursuant to applicable State Laws. The school program is in compliance with the California Code of Regulations, Title 15 Minimum Standards for Juvenile Facilities and Section 1370 Education Program. Routine meetings with school personnel, their involvement in weekly treatment team meetings, the assignment of a school liaison Supervising Probation Officer (SPO) or designee, a lead teacher, and the coordinated oversight of the Director of Juvenile Court and Community Schools and the facility director and supervisors insure coordination and communication between school and probation staff.

The facility administration shall request an annual review of each required element of the Education Program by the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent of Schools shall conduct this review with a qualified outside agency or individual to generate a report or review checklist on compliance, deficiencies, and corrective action needed to achieve compliance. The facility administrator or designee will review the report with the Superintendent of Schools and take whatever corrective action is necessary to address any deficiencies to fully protect the educational interests of all youth in the facility.

The education staff are held to a standards per the 2009 California Standards for the Teaching Profession requiring the establishment and maintenance of a learning environment that is physically, emotionally, and intellectually safe. Education staff shall utilize culturally responsive and trauma-informed approaches when providing instruction including the use of technology to facilitate learning and safe technology practices.

A. Required Elements
Education Program (continued)

1. The facility school program shall comply with State Education Code and County Board of Education policies, all applicable federal education statutes, regulations, and provide for annual evaluation of the educational programs being offered.

2. Education staff shall establish and maintain learning environment that are physically, emotionally, and intellectually safe.

3. The minimum school day is 250 minutes which is consistent with State Education Code requirements, except for those youth enrolled in approved vocational education programs. The facility administrator with education staff shall ensure that operational procedures do not interfere with the minimum instructional day.

4. All eligible youth will attend school at the designated times unless they awaiting court, visitation, counseling, or otherwise engaged in some other official function during the school period in question.

5. Youth shall be provided a rigorous, quality educational program that responds to the different learning styles, abilities, of students, and provides courses required for high school graduation, and prepares youth for career entry, and post-secondary education.

6. All youth shall be treated equally, and the education program shall be free from discriminatory action. Staff shall refer to transgender, intersex, and gender-nonconforming youth by their preferred name and gender.

7. Information, preparation, and locations of certified testing centers for the High School Equivalency Test as approved by the California Department of Education shall be made available to eligible youth.

8. Youth shall be informed of post-secondary and education and vocational opportunities.

9. Supplemental instruction shall be afforded to youth who do not demonstrate sufficient progress towards grade level standards by offering reading and math interventions.
Education Program (continued)

10. Absences, time out of class or educational instruction, both excused and unexcused shall be documented via the class roster.

11. Education shall be provided to all youth regardless of classification, housing, security status, disciplinary or separation status, including room confinement status, except when providing education poses an immediate threat to the safety of self or others. Education includes, but is not limited to, related services as provided in a youth’s Section 504 Plan or Individual Education Program (IEP).

B. Provisions for Special Populations

1. State and Federal laws and regulations shall be observed for all individuals with disabilities or suspected disabilities. This includes but is not limited to child find, assessment, continuum of alternative placements, manifestation determinations reviews, and implementation of Section 504 Plans and Individualized Education Programs

2. Youth are interviewed after admittance by school personnel and a written record is prepared that documents each youth’s educational history.
   a. School progress/school history;
   b. Home Language Survey and the results of the State Test used for English language proficiency;
   c. Needs and services of special populations as defined by the State of Education Code, including students with special needs
   d. Discipline problems

3. Education staff will review with the youth their education plan and modify as needed. Youth will also be orientated by education staff as to the services, credit structure including the number of credits needed to graduate, and the goals of the educational program.
Education Program (continued)

4. The youth’s complete educational record shall be forwarded to the next educational placement, school district or educational program in accordance with the State Education Code.

C. Educational Screening and Admission

1. Youth are interviewed after admittance by school personnel and a written record is prepared that documents each youth’s educational history.
   a. School progress/school history;
   b. Home Language Survey and the results of the State Test used for English language proficiency;
   c. Needs and services of special populations as defined by the State of Education Code, including students with special needs;
   d. Discipline problems

2. Youth will be immediately enrolled in school.

3. A preliminary education plan is developed for each youth within five school days.

4. The education plan will address a youth’s needs whenever he or she has difficulty, for whatever reason, completing a normal school day.

5. Upon enrollment education staff will comply with State Education code by ordering student records and transcripts for all student including, but not limited to, Individual Education Plans (IEP), 504 Plan, partial credit, and state language assessment scores.

6. Upon receipt of transcripts, the youth’s educational plan shall be reviewed with the youth and modified as needed. The youth should be informed of the credits they need to graduate.

D. Educational Reporting
Education Program (continued)

1. The youth’s complete educational record shall be forwarded to the next educational placement, school district or educational program in accordance with the State Education Code.

2. The Santa Barbara County Superintendent of Schools shall provide appropriate credit (full or partial) for course work completed while in Juvenile Court School in accordance with the State of Education Code.
Education Program (continued)

E. Transition and Re-Entry Planning

1. The Santa Barbara County Superintendent of Schools and the Chief Probation Officer or designee shall develop policies and procedures to meet the transition needs of youth including the development of an education transition plan, in accordance with the State Education Code and in alignment with Title 15, Minimum Standards for Juvenile Facilities, Section 1355.

F. Post-Secondary Education Opportunities

1. The school and the facility administrator whenever possible, collaborate with local post-secondary education providers to facilitate access to educational and vocational opportunities for youth including the use of technology to implement these programs.

G. School Discipline

1. The Santa Maria Juvenile Hall utilizes the Behavior Management Program (BMP) to reduce the need for disciplinary action in the school setting and is integrated in the rules, expectations, and security system. Youth are encouraged to earn Daily Incentive Program Points by attending and preforming well in school on a daily basis.

2. Education staff shall be advised of administrative decisions made by probation staff that may affect the educational programming of students.

3. Except as otherwise provided by the State Education Code, suspension from school shall be imposed only when other means of correction fails to bring about proper conduct.

4. Education staff shall document the means of correction used prior to imposing suspension if it is ultimately imposed.
Education Program (continued)

5. Education staff shall follow appropriate due process safeguards as set forth in the State Education Code including the rights of students with special needs.

H. The following practice is to be employed whenever a youth refuses to attend school.

1. The Juvenile Institutions Officer (JIO) is to identify the specific reason a youth is refusing to go to school. If it is for a legitimate medical or mental health reason, the normal process of making an appropriate referral should be followed. If it is not for one of those reasons, the JIO is to attempt to persuade and counsel the youth to attend and offer the opportunity to change their mind about attending.

2. If the youth continues to refuse, the JIO is to refer the matter to the appropriate school staff member and facilitate that person speaking with the youth about attending. This should be done as soon as practical. If the youth continues to refuse to attend after education staff intervention, the normal process of providing a sanction should be followed. Sanctions can include failure to earn Daily Incentive Points and designated as “C” Level for the day as per the Behavior Management Program (BMP).

3. If a youth changes their mind and agrees to attend school later in the day, the JIO will consult with the appropriate school staff and Senior JIO.

4. If there are certain youth who refuse school repeatedly for no legitimate reason and despite daily efforts from the JIO and school staff to encourage them to attend, staff should call the assigned Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) and request they meet with the youth and attempt to persuade them to attend in conjunction with JIO and school staff. If after two or three days of such attempts, the assigned DPO is not successful, the JIOs and the assigned DPO are to continue encouraging attendance. If the posture of such a youth changes, education staff can re-engage with the youth.
Education Program (continued)

5. Youth who continue to chronically refuse to attend school can be returned to court at the discretion of the assigned DPO.

6. Efforts by both probation and education staff to encourage the youth to attend school shall be documented via an IMPACT event entry or a WSR if sanctions are given.

I. Youth on Room Confinement Status (RCS) are not automatically precluded from attending school in the classroom. With the exception of those on Medical Separation, Maximum Security Room Confinement Status (MS-RCS), or any other youth who poses a significant threat to the safety of other youth or staff, attendance in the classroom will be reviewed and approved by Administration on a case by case basis. The Sr. DPO or Sr. JIO will review each youth’s case to determine the nature of their behavior or if the youth’s presence compromises the safety and security of the school program. The teacher will provide individual student study packets or individual instruction for youth who are ineligible to attend the school program and will provide a daily orientation and follow-up.

J. When the education staff calls for the school group, JIOs are to have the youth line up at the appropriate door, hands behind their backs, and be an arm’s distance apart from each other. The JIOs will ensure youths do not take any items from units into the classrooms such as non-school papers, books, toothbrushes, hair brushes, combs, food, etc.

K. Prior to the end of each period, teachers will ensure all pencils, pens and other materials are accounted for prior to the school group exiting the classroom.

L. Youth should be reminded to use the restroom facilities prior to leaving for the school classroom. Youth requesting to use restroom facilities during class time will be escorted to the unit restroom and return to the classroom. JIOs will perform a pat-down search when youth exit the classroom and when they reenter to ensure no possession of contraband.

M. The classroom and school equipment are not to be used by the juvenile hall staff without prior permission of the education staff in charge of the classroom.
Education Program (continued)

1. Juvenile hall staff who are given permission to use school equipment will be trained in its use by school personnel.

2. Youth are only allowed to operate school equipment under the direct supervision of education personnel.

O. Youth who are called from the classroom for any reason are to be appropriately searched via a pat-down search in the unit prior to returning to class.

1. All youth returning to their rooms and not returning to class will be searched prior to being locked down.

II. Youth not Participating in School Activities

A. Youth who are removed, suspended, expelled or not attending school for disciplinary reasons are not to commingle with the school population during the school program or breaks.

1. All youth not attending school for the reasons stated above are to be placed in their rooms prior to, and during, the school group’s return to the day room for their school breaks.

B. Those youths not attending school and not currently serving a discipline are permitted to eat lunch in the day room with the students.