



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

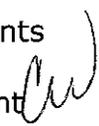


JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

February 21, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Intermediate School District Superintendents

FROM: Carol L. Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent 

SUBJECT: Alternative Schools Accepting Suspended and Expelled Students

In 1999, the State Legislature amended the School Code to include *Safe Schools* legislation. In 380.1310, the law required expulsion of students who committed a physical assault against another student, and recommended alternative education or strict discipline academies as a method for continuing educational services for students expelled under this section. It also required, "The office for safe schools in the department (i.e., the Michigan Department of Education) shall compile information on and catalog existing alternative education programs or schools and nonpublic schools that may be open to enrollment of individuals expelled under this section and pursuant to section 1311(2) or 1311a, and shall periodically distribute this information to school districts for distribution to expelled individuals. A school board that establishes an alternative education program or school described in this subsection shall notify the office for safe schools about the program or school and the types of pupils it serves."

Since 2005, the Center for Educational Performance and Information has attempted to collect such information through the School Infrastructure Database (SID) End-of-Year Submission. The Department has reserved a spot on the Safe Schools website to post the list of alternative schools accepting suspended or expelled students. Unfortunately, through communications with school officials, parents, and attorneys, we have found that compiling an accurate list is difficult.

Therefore, we are asking for your help. A draft list of schools is posted online at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/safeschools/AltServ_220161_7.pdf. Please verify with your local districts that this list is indeed accurate and let us know of any errors or omissions by sending a corrected list to the contact below.

We sincerely appreciate your help in this matter. Questions regarding the content of this letter may be directed to Bob Higgins, Safe Schools Consultant, Michigan Department of Education, by phone at 517-373-1024 or via e-mail at higginsr@michigan.gov.

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