

## **Alternative Education Programs**

“Alternative education program” means a school or separate class group designed to best serve students’ educational needs and interests and assist students in achieving the academic standards of the district and the state. (ORS 336.615) Alternative education programs may differ from other traditional programs in ways that include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Emphasis on a specific element of the district’s curriculum;
2. Presenting the district’s curriculum in a different sequence;
3. A different decision-making process for school governance;
4. Unique groupings of students for instruction;
5. Emphasis on specific instructional strategy; or
6. Emphasis on community-based learning experiences.

Alternative education programs shall be designed to benefit all students equally and to maintain learning situations that are flexible with regard to environment, time, structure and instructional methods.

The district shall evaluate all approved alternative education programs annually using district-adopted evaluation procedures.

The Board shall approve private and public alternative education programs operated or contracted by the district.

The district may assign up to 80 percent of the income generated from student attendance to the alternative school budget. District accounting procedures will be followed in accounting for the funds. If funds are assigned to a different agency, a complete report (audit) of the funds will be forwarded annually to the district within 60 days after June 30.

Information about the district’s participation will be included on all brochures, publications, media articles, presentation to public groups and other communications with the public.

General notification of the alternative education law shall be contained in the student/parent handbook distributed each year. Notification will include the following general program requirements:

1. The alternative education program must identify criteria for student notification and enrollment;

2. Applicant will be evaluated for acceptance according to established criteria for enrollment;
3. Any student in the district may apply for enrollment in an alternative education program;
4. The location must be accessible to all residents of the district. Transportation is provided if the student accesses regularly established routes;
5. Notification to students and parents regarding the availability of alternative programs will be distributed annually or when new programs become available, under the following situations, as appropriate:
  - a. When two or more severe disciplinary problems occur within a three-year period (Severe disciplinary problems will be defined in the code of conduct.);
  - b. When attendance is so erratic the student is not benefitting from the educational program (Erratic attendance will be defined on a case-by-case basis.);
  - c. When a student's parent or an emancipated student applies for exemption from attendance on a semiannual basis;
  - d. When an expulsion is being considered for reasons other than a weapons policy violation;
  - e. When a student is expelled for reasons other than a weapons policy violation.

Individual notification shall be **hand delivered** or sent by certified mail. Parents shall receive individual notification prior to an actual expulsion.

Standards for alternative education programs submitted for consideration will include:

1. The program must meet the criteria for an alternative education program as defined in this policy;
2. The program must have established general goals that enhance the district's mission and goals;
3. The planned curriculum must align with the district's curriculum and objectives if credit is to be granted;
4. The proposed budget for the program must represent an efficient use of district funds and/or funding source;
5. The program meets average daily membership requirements (ADM) established by the state;
6. Staffing and support services of the program must be in compliance with district personnel policy, rules and regulations;
7. The location of the proposed program must conform to applicable district policies and state laws related to health, safety, equal access and demonstrate efficient use of district resources;

8. Student selection for enrollment must not discriminate among applicants and must comply with state and federal regulations;
9. Parent/Public involvement and support must be evident;
10. Identification of the process for annual program evaluation must be identified;
11. The district will appoint an administrator to be responsible for the program;
12. Students attending alternative schools are required to meet or exceed any district or state requirements for progress, promotion, credits, certificates or diplomas. Students will participate in all state-required testing and assessment programs.

The alternate education program proposal shall be:

1. Supported by the building administration/staff/site council;
2. Submitted to the director of administrative services for review and recommendations to the superintendent;
3. Reviewed and approved by the superintendent;
4. Reviewed and approved by the Board.