

Administrative Regulation

AR 6181

Alternative Schools/Programs Of Choice

Instruction

Note: The following optional administrative regulation may be revised to reflect district practice.

Notifications

Note: Education Code 58501 sets forth a "Notice of Alternative Schools" which must be sent to parents/guardians at the beginning of each year, as provided below. This notice must be sent along with the annual notification required by Education Code 48980; see BP/E 5145.6 - Parental Notifications.

At the beginning of each school year, the "Notice of Alternative Schools" shall be sent to all parents/guardians as set forth in Education Code 58501. During the entire month of ~~March~~ February of each year, a copy of this notice shall be posted at each school in at least two places normally visible to students, teachers, and visiting parents/guardians. (Education Code 58501)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

Copies of the law providing for alternative schools or programs of choice (Education Code 58500-58512) shall be made available in the district office and each school office to any interested parent/guardian, teacher, or student. (Education Code 58501)

Proposals

All proposals for the establishment of an alternative school or program of choice shall:

1. Address the district's vision, goals, and academic standards

(cf. 0000 - Vision)

(cf. 0200 - Goals for the School District)

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)

2. Demonstrate that the number of students interested in enrolling in the alternative school or program of choice is sufficient to meet desired student-teacher staffing ratios

(cf. 6151 - Class Size)

3. Demonstrate that teachers are willing to work within the school or program

4. Demonstrate that the proposed operational plan conforms with district timelines and makes equitable use of district staff, facilities, and resources
5. Provide a statement of the specific anticipated costs of implementing the proposal as well as funding sources, including outside funding sources and/or district support
6. Include a comprehensive plan for an annual evaluation of the program to be carried out by the district

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)

(cf. 6190 - Evaluation of the Instructional Program)

Note: The California Department of Education's web site recommends that districts consider organizing a committee to process requests and make recommendations, as provided in the optional paragraph below.

The Superintendent or designee may establish an advisory committee of staff, parents/guardians, and community members to evaluate proposals for alternative schools or programs of choice and make recommendations to the Superintendent.

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)

Enrollment

The district may establish alternative schools or programs of choice in each attendance area and/or on a districtwide basis with enrollment open to all students districtwide. (Education Code 58505)

(cf. 5116.1 - Intradistrict Open Enrollment)

Students enrolled in alternative schools or programs of choice shall be selected entirely from volunteers. (Education Code 58503)

Alternative schools and programs of choice shall comply with state and federal law and Board policy regarding nondiscrimination in district programs.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

Previous classroom performance shall not be a criterion limiting any student from the opportunity to attend an alternative school or program of choice. (Education Code 58504)

When an alternative class group is established within a school, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that students currently enrolled in the school will not be displaced.

Operations

The district shall maintain and fund alternative schools or programs of choice at the same level of support as other district educational programs for students of the same age level. (Education Code 58507)

(cf. 3100 - Budget)

Teachers employed in alternative schools or programs of choice shall be selected entirely from volunteers. (Education Code 58503)

(cf. 4113 - Assignment)

Course credits earned in an alternative school or program of choice shall be equivalent to the credits earned in other district schools. Students enrolled in such schools or programs shall be expected to complete all district graduation requirements and shall earn a regular diploma.

(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)

(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)

Note: The following optional paragraph may be revised to reflect district practice. Education Code 58512 authorizes the Governing Board to provide in whole or in part for the transportation of students attending an alternative school of choice. In lieu of providing such transportation, the Board may reimburse students' parents/guardians a sum not to exceed the cost of actual and necessary travel incurred. In no case shall the district's state apportionment for transportation expenses be increased because of the operation of an alternative school of choice. Districts that charge transportation fees may wish to clarify that these fees will be charged regardless of what school the student attends.

(cf. 3250 - Transportation Fees)

(cf. 3540 - Transportation)

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