

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

This school district shall provide an alternative education program that conforms to the requirements of state law and rules applicable to alternative education. The alternative education program shall conform to federal law requirements if federal funding is utilized to provide services to meet the educational needs of neglected, delinquent, and at-risk children and youth. The program shall:

1. Allow class sizes and student/teacher ratios conducive to effective learning for at-risk students;
2. Incorporate appropriate structure, curriculum, and interaction and reinforcement strategies designed to provide effective instruction;
3. Include an intake and screening process to determine eligibility of students;
4. Demonstrate that teaching faculty are appropriately licensed or certified teachers;
5. Demonstrate that teaching faculty have been selected on the basis of a record of successful work with at-risk students or personal and educational factors that qualify them for work with at-risk students;
6. Reflect appropriate collaborative efforts with state agencies and local agencies serving youth;
7. Provide courses that meet the academic curricula standards adopted by the State Board of Education and additional remedial courses;
8. Offer individualized instruction;
9. State clear and measurable program goals and objectives;
10. Include counseling and social services components with the provision that providers of services are not required to be certified as school counselors;
11. Require a plan leading to graduation be developed for each student in the program that will allow the student to participate in graduation exercises for the school district after meeting all of the graduation requirements of the school district.
12. Offer life skills instruction;
13. Provide opportunity for arts education to students, including Artists in Residence programs coordinated with the Oklahoma Arts Council;
14. Provide a proposed annual budget;
15. Include an evaluation component including an annual written self-evaluation;
16. Be appropriately designed to serve middle school, junior high school, and secondary school students in grades seven through twelve who are most at risk of not completing a high school education for a reason other than as identified in 70 O.S. §13-10, and;

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17. Allow all students in the alternative education program, who otherwise meet all of the participation requirements, to participate in vocational programs and extracurricular activities, including but not limited to athletics, band, and clubs.

The alternative education program shall be operational and serving students by September 15, of each school year.

Any equipment or material purchased by the school district with revenue received for students participating in an alternative education program shall be used only in or directly for the alternative education program offered by the district during the hours the alternative education program is in operation. The equipment or materials may be used for other purposes during hours when the alternative education program is not in operation.

If a program will serve fewer than ten (10) students, the alternative education program shall be offered by the district through an interlocal cooperative in which the district participates, unless the program has been granted a waiver from this requirement by the State Department of Education.

REFERENCE: 70 O.S. §1210.568
70 O.S. §1210.569
20 U.S.C. § 6434

NOTE: Referenced statute 70 O.S. §1210.568 requires the program be provided by all school districts beginning with the first semester of the 2000-2001 school year.