

Administrative Procedure 220

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

Background

An alternative program is one that emphasizes a particular language, culture or subject matter or which uses a particular teaching philosophy, but that is not a religious education program.

The Division will consider the development and implementation of alternative programs provided they are in:

- Keeping with the goals and objectives of the Division;
- Response to documented needs and/or interests of students and parents;
- Keeping with sound educational principle; and
- Keeping with the Division's financial capabilities.

Procedures

1. Proponents shall submit a proposal to establish an alternative program to the Superintendent a minimum of twelve months prior to the requested "start up" date.
2. The proposal must include the following program elements:
 - 2.1 Philosophy and objectives;
 - 2.2 Organization (variations from other schools);
 - 2.3 Curriculum (specific emphasis);
 - 2.4 Finances;
 - 2.5 Staffing (variations from regular staffing);
 - 2.6 Evaluation; and,
 - 2.7 Projected student population.
3. The Superintendent will determine the appropriateness of the proposal and may arrange for the proponents to make a presentation to the Board.
4. If the Board gives approval in principle, the Superintendent will have established a set of administrative requirements to initiate the program. All system policies and regulations apply unless specifically exempted by the Board.
5. If the Board approves the administrative requirements, the detailed preparation for the program will be directed through the Superintendent.
6. A board may offer an alternative program to a student whose parent requests it where, in the opinion of the Board,
 - 6.1 the board has sufficient resources and facilities to offer the alternative program, and

- 6.2 the alternative program is appropriate to meet the student's education needs.
7. A board may offer an alternative program that operates within the geographic boundaries of another board only if the other board has been requested to offer the alternative program and has refused.
8. A board that offers an alternative program shall continue to offer an education program consistent with the requirements of the Education Act and the regulations to those students not enrolled in the alternative program.
9. If a parent enrolls a student in an alternative program, the board may charge that parent fees related to the alternative program only for the purpose of defraying all or a portion of any non-instructional costs that
- 9.1 may be incurred by the board in offering the alternative program,
 - 9.2 are necessary for the delivery of the alternative program, and
 - 9.3. are in addition to the costs incurred by the board in providing education programs other than the alternative program

Reference: Section 3,11,13,18,19,33,52,53,55,197,222 Education Act
Alternative Programs policy 1.1.5