

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

Background

The Board supports the provision of alternative programs within the Division as an educational choice for students, and parents and guardians.

Definitions

Alternative Program:

as defined in the *Education Act*, an alternative program is an educational program that emphasizes a particular language, culture, religion or subject matter, or uses a particular teaching philosophy; but that is not a special education program—alternative programs in the Division currently include French Immersion, German Language and Culture, Ukrainian Language and Culture, Alternative Christian, Logos Christian, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and Outreach.

Guidelines

1. Alternative programs shall:
 - 1.1. emphasize a particular language, culture, religion or subject matter, or use a particular teaching philosophy, which is distinctly different from that emphasized in the regular program;
 - 1.2. be established only with Board approval of a detailed program proposal;
 - 1.3. be closed only with Board approval;
 - 1.4. receive a Division budget allocation upon approval by the Board; and
 - 1.5. be allowed to charge a non-instructional fee.
2. The school Principal, alternative program society or other proponents shall submit to the Superintendent, or designate, a proposal to establish an alternative program according to the guidelines provided in an administrative procedure.
3. Where an alternative program is offered as an alternative school:
 - 3.1. the alternative school shall not qualify for the small school allocation; and
 - 3.2. the alternative school shall receive all other budget allocations and services available to other schools.
4. Criteria for approval and continued support of an alternative program:
 - 4.1. all Division policies and procedures apply unless specifically exempted by the Board;
 - 4.2. there is a supportable education approach, and there are numbers of students sufficient to warrant the program;
 - 4.3. the program is financially viable, as determined by the Division;
 - 4.4. the program does not interfere with any student's access to a regular program of instruction;
 - 4.5. the program follows Alberta Education's programs of study; and

- 4.6. the program is integrated as part of the Division within existing schools, wherever feasible.
5. Transportation to alternative programs shall be granted according to [Board Policy 17: Student Transportation Services](#) or as per an agreement in the program proposal.
6. Staff shall be employed by, evaluated by, and responsible to the Division, according to Division procedures.
7. Alternative programs shall be reviewed by administration every five years. The Board shall receive these program evaluations as completed.
8. The Board shall decide whether the alternative program will be terminated.

References

Sections 7, 11, 17, 19, 55 *Education Act*
Alberta Education, *Alternative Programs Handbook 2010*

Last reviewed:	Last updated:
May 18, 2012	
Nov. 30, 2015	
Jan. 7, 2016	Jan. 21, 2016
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Feb. 12, 2018	
Jan. 29, 2019	March 14, 2019
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