



## **ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION**

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### **POLICY:**

The Board is dedicated to providing educational options for all students. It is recognized there will be students in the District whose needs and interests are best served by participation in an alternative education program.

### **Establishment and Evaluation**

A list of private alternative programs, used for the placement of District students, will be approved by the Board annually. The Superintendent will establish alternative education program options in compliance with Oregon Administrative Rules and Oregon Revised Statutes:

1. For students who are unable to succeed in the regular programs due to erratic attendance or behavioral problems;
2. For students who have not met or who have exceeded all of Oregon's academic content standards;
3. When necessary to meet a student's educational needs and interests;
4. To assist students in achieving district and state academic standards;
5. When a public or private alternative program is not readily available or accessible.

Alternative learning opportunities implemented by the District are to maintain learning options that are flexible with regard to environment, time, structure and pedagogy.

Examples of alternative learning options could include:

1. A separate school;
2. Evening classes;
3. Tutorial instruction;
4. Small group instruction;
5. Large group instruction;
6. Personal growth and development instruction;
7. Counseling and guidance;
8. Computer-assisted instruction;
9. Professional technical programs;
10. Cooperative work experience and/or supervised work experience, in accordance with the student's educational goals;
11. Instructional activities provided by institutions accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges;

12. Supervised community service activities performed as a part of the instructional programs; and
13. Supervised independent study in accordance with a student's educational goals.

The Superintendent may provide for the involvement of staff, parents and the community in recommending alternative programs for Board approval. Annual evaluation of alternative programs will be made in accordance with OAR 581-022-1350. The Superintendent will develop administrative regulations as necessary to implement this requirement.

### **Structure and Guidelines**

Alternative programs will consist of instruction and instruction combined with counseling services. These programs may be public or private. Private alternative programs shall be registered with the Oregon Department of Education. Alternative programs must meet all the requirements set forth in ORS.336.631 and 336.637.

### **Referral and Notification**

The District shall inform all students, parents and guardians of the law regarding alternative education programs and educational services available to the students as required by ORS 339.250 (9), (10).

Notice shall be given of the availability of two or more District-approved alternative programs of instruction which the District will finance as required by ORS 336.635. Notification of the availability of alternative education programs shall be provided to students, parents and guardians in the following instances:

1. Upon the occurrence of a second or any subsequent occurrence of a severe disciplinary problem, as defined in the regulation, within a three year period.
2. When the District finds a student's attendance pattern so erratic, as defined in the regulation that the student is not benefiting from the education program.
3. When the District is considering expulsion as a disciplinary alternative, excepting expulsion for a weapons offense.
4. When a student is expelled pursuant to Section 3 of ORS 339.250, excepting expulsion for a weapons offense.
5. When a student or the student's parents or legal guardian notifies the District of intent to withdraw from school as provided under ORS 339.030 (2).

Individual notification shall be required prior to an actual expulsion. This individual notification shall be hand-delivered or sent by certified mail to the student's parents or legal guardian. Notification shall include:

1. The student's action;
2. A list of alternative programs for this student;
3. The program recommendations based upon the student's learning styles and needs;
4. Procedures for enrolling the student in the recommended program.

Students, upon parent request, may be placed in an alternative program if the District determines that the placement serves the student's educational needs and interests. Such placement must have the approval of the student's resident district and, as

appropriate, the attending district. The District will also consider and propose alternative education programs for students prior to expulsion or leaving school as required by law.

The Superintendent will develop notification procedures in accordance with Oregon Revised Statutes.

### **Financial Support and Responsibility**

The District will make payments for students who have been released from the District under the provisions of ORS 339.250 (9) when the student is enrolled in a District-approved program.

The District shall pay the actual alternative program cost or an amount equal to 80 percent of the District's estimated current year's average per-student net operating expenditure, whichever is less. The District will enter into a written contract with District-approved private alternative programs.

The District assumes no responsibility for the educational program offered by the alternative schools except as specifically required in ORS 339.250 and ORS 336.635.

### **Attendance and Transfer of Credits**

Oregon Administrative Rules govern the procedures for reporting membership of students involved in alternative school programs.

Transfer of credits from an alternative school to McMinnville High School shall be based upon prior agreement between the student, alternative school and the District. The agreement will be set forth in the conditions by which transfer of credit is acceptable in accordance with Board policy JECDA - Transcript Evaluation.

Revision Date: 2/10/97, 8/9/99, 8/9/04

Adoption Date: 9/14/87

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 329.035](#)  
[ORS 329.485](#)  
[ORS 332.072](#)  
[ORS 336.135 - 336.183](#)  
[ORS 336.615 - 336.665](#)  
[ORS 339.030](#)  
[ORS 339.250](#)

[OAR 581-021-0045](#)  
[OAR 581-021-0065](#)  
[OAR 581-021-0070](#)  
[OAR 581-021-0071](#)  
[OAR 581-022-1350](#)  
[OAR 581-022-1620](#)  
[OAR 581-023-0006](#)  
[OAR 581-023-0008](#)