



ALTERNATIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

The board endeavors to provide an educational program adjusted to the needs of the individual child within the financial means of the school. Grouping enables a more efficient use of staff in meeting these needs. Program adaptations provide another means of using staff efficiently and effectively to meet the needs of many children.

When the needs of special individuals or groups cannot be met through adaptation or independent study, the lead person shall investigate and propose to the board for approval alternative programs and facilities. Alternative education programs shall be approved by the Commissioner of Education.

Each alternative education program shall fulfill the program criteria that are specified in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-9.2 including but not limited to:

- A. A maximum student-teacher ratio of 12:1 for high school programs;
- B. A maximum student-teacher ratio of 10:1 for middle school programs;
- C. An Individualized Program Plan (IPP) shall be developed for each general education student enrolled in the program; and
- D. For students with disabilities the alternate education program shall be consistent with the student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Disruptive/Disaffected Children

The board of trustees recognizes that the active engagement of each student is a primary requisite for sound teaching and learning to take place. When a child is unable to benefit from the educational program because he/she is either disruptive or disaffected, then the educational goals of the school for that child will not be realized and the efforts of other students may be impeded.

In an effort to optimize the educational experience for each child, the lead person shall develop procedures to identify and work with disruptive/disaffected students.

When it is determined by the child study team that a disruptive/disaffected student is not classifiable, the board shall consider some other program as an alternative to regular classroom attendance. When the school does not have a suitable alternative program available, the lead person shall recommend to the board placement in a program of the home district, or home instruction.

In accordance with state law and board policy, disruptive students whose continuing attendance interrupts the educational program and/or threatens harm to themselves and others may be suspended and considered for expulsion (see policy 5114).

Removal for Weapons Offenses or Assault

Any student who is convicted or found to be delinquent for the following offenses shall be immediately removed by the principal from the school's regular education program for a period of not less than one calendar year and placed in an alternative education school or program pending a hearing before the board of trustees to remove the student:

- A. Possessing a firearm on any school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored function; or
- B. Committing a crime while possessing a firearm.

The lead person shall determine at the end of the year whether the student is to return to the school's regular education program, in accordance with procedures established by the Commissioner of Education.

Any student who assaults a student, teacher, administrator, board member, or other school employee with a weapon other than a firearm on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored function must be immediately removed from the school's regular education program and placed in an alternative school or program, pending a hearing before the board. The lead person shall determine when the child shall return to the regular education program.

Potential Dropouts

While statute requires attendance of each student only until 16 years of age, it is in the best interests of both students and the community that they complete the educational program that will equip them with skills and increase their chances for a successful and fulfilling life beyond the schools.

The board directs that whenever a student wishes to withdraw, or has been identified as a potential withdrawal, effort should be made to determine the underlying reason and the resources of the school should be used to assist the student in reaching his/her career goals. No student under the age of 18 will be permitted to withdraw without the written consent of a parent/guardian.

The lead person shall develop procedures for withdrawal from school that:

- A. Make counseling services available to any student who wishes to withdraw;
- B. Make every effort to satisfy the student's future educational needs;
- C. Help the student define his/her own educational life goals and help plan the realization of those goals;
- D. Inform the student of the high school equivalency program;
- E. Point out to the student the opportunities available in the armed forces.

Adopted: 10/19/2010

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