

Policy 6181: Alternative Schools/Programs Of Choice

Original Adopted Date: 2/14/2024

The Governing Board desires to provide a variety of innovative educational programs to accommodate students' diverse learning needs and interests, foster student engagement in the schools, and enhance student achievement. Toward this end, the Board may establish and maintain alternative schools or programs of choice.

A district alternative school or program of choice may differ from the traditional educational program in its academic emphasis, sequence of curriculum, educational philosophy, instructional strategy, structure, setting, size, scheduling, targeted student population, decision-making process, and/or other components. All alternative schools or programs of choice shall offer enrolled students the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve district content standards in core academic subjects and shall provide access to the course of study required for high school graduation.

Any staff member, parent/guardian of any student, or other interested person may request the Board to establish an alternative school or program of choice. The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures and criteria for reviewing proposals. Based on such criteria, he/she shall evaluate all proposals received and present his/her recommendation to the Board for action.

As necessary to provide flexibility to alternative schools or programs of choice to improve student performance and/or streamline operations, the Superintendent or designee may request that the Superintendent of Public Instruction waive any provision of the Education Code except provisions specified in Education Code 58509.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish processes to ensure communication among staff in the alternative schools or programs of choice and staff in the regular educational program in order to share information and ideas.

Program Evaluation

The Superintendent or designee shall conduct an annual evaluation of each alternative school or program of choice which includes testing of basic skills for student participants and which identifies the variables that may have affected student academic achievement. The evaluation process shall include input from teachers, parents/guardians, and students from the alternative school or program of choice. (Education Code 58510)

Evaluation reports shall be sent to the Superintendent of Public Instruction on or before August 1 following the close of the school year. (Education Code 58510)

Prior to submitting the evaluation report to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Superintendent or designee shall report the evaluation results to the Board. The Board shall review the effectiveness of the school or program in meeting program objectives, compare student achievement data with that of students in other district schools, evaluate changes in the school or program over time, and make program modifications as needed.

Policy Reference Disclaimer:

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State	Description
5 CCR 1068-1074	Alternative schools accountability model; assessments
5 CCR 11705	Charter schools as alternative schools
Ed. Code 35160.5	District policies; rules and regulations
Ed. Code 48980	Parent/Guardian notifications
Ed. Code 52052	Accountability; numerically significant student subgroups
Ed. Code 58500-58512	Alternative schools and programs of choice
Management Resources	Description
Court Decision	American Civil Rights Foundation v. Los Angeles Unified School District, (2008) 169 Cal.App.4th 436
U.S. Department of Education Publication	Creating and Sustaining Successful K-8 Magnet Schools, September 2008
U.S. Department of Education Publication	Innovations in Education: Successful Magnet High Schools, September 2008
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website	U.S. Department of Education, Office of Innovation and Improvement
Website	California Department of Education, Alternative Schools of Choice
Website	Foundation for California Community Colleges, Early College High School Initiative

Cross References

Code	Description
0000	Vision
0200	Goals For The School District
0410	Nondiscrimination In District Programs And Activities
0420	School Plans/Site Councils
0420	School Plans/Site Councils
0500	Accountability
1220	Citizen Advisory Committees
1220	Citizen Advisory Committees
3100	Budget
3100	Budget

3250	<u>Transportation Fees</u>
3250	<u>Transportation Fees</u>
3540	<u>Transportation</u>
4113	<u>Assignment</u>
4113	<u>Assignment</u>
5113.1	<u>Chronic Absence And Truancy</u>
5113.1	<u>Chronic Absence And Truancy</u>
5116.1	<u>Intradistrict Open Enrollment</u>
5116.1	<u>Intradistrict Open Enrollment</u>
5126	<u>Awards For Achievement</u>
5126	<u>Awards For Achievement</u>
5141.22	<u>Infectious Diseases</u>
5141.22	<u>Infectious Diseases</u>
5145.6	<u>Parent/Guardian Notifications</u>
5145.6-E(1)	<u>Parent/Guardian Notifications</u>
6000	<u>Concepts And Roles</u>
6011	<u>Academic Standards</u>
6141.4	<u>International Baccalaureate Program</u>
6143	<u>Courses Of Study</u>
6143	<u>Courses Of Study</u>
6146.1	<u>High School Graduation Requirements</u>
6146.3	<u>Reciprocity Of Academic Credit</u>
6146.3	<u>Reciprocity Of Academic Credit</u>
6151	<u>Class Size</u>
6152	<u>Class Assignment</u>
6158	<u>Independent Study</u>
6158	<u>Independent Study</u>
6159	<u>Individualized Education Program</u>
6159	<u>Individualized Education Program</u>
6162.5	<u>Student Assessment</u>
6162.51	<u>State Academic Achievement Tests</u>
6162.51	<u>State Academic Achievement Tests</u>
6164.5	<u>Student Success Teams</u>

6164.5	<u>Student Success Teams</u>
6172.1	<u>Concurrent Enrollment In College Classes</u>
6172.1	<u>Concurrent Enrollment In College Classes</u>
6178	<u>Career Technical Education</u>
6178	<u>Career Technical Education</u>
6184	<u>Continuation Education</u>
6184	<u>Continuation Education</u>
6190	<u>Evaluation Of The Instructional Program</u>