

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS

Notifications

At the beginning of each school year, the "Notice of Alternative Schools" shall be included in the district's annual notification to parents (per Education Code 48980). During the entire month of March of each year, a copy of this notice shall be posted at each school in at least two places normally visible to students, teachers, and visiting parents/guardians.

Copies of Education Code 58500-58512, providing for alternative schools, shall be placed in the district office and in the principal's office at each school and shall be made available to any interested parent/guardian, teacher or student.

Proposals

All proposals for the establishment of an alternative school or class group shall:

1. Address district program goals and academic standards;
2. Demonstrate that the number of students interested in enrolling in the alternative school is sufficient to meet desired student/teacher staffing ratios;
3. Demonstrate that teachers are willing to work within the program;
4. Demonstrate that the proposed operational plan conforms with district timelines and makes equitable use of district staff, facilities and resources;
5. Provide a statement of the specific anticipated costs of implementing the proposal as well as funding sources, including outside funding sources and/or district support; and
6. Include a comprehensive plan for a yearly evaluation of the program to be carried out by the district

Enrollment

The district may establish alternative schools in each attendance area and/or on a district-wide basis, with enrollment open to all students district-wide.

Previous classroom performance shall not be a criterion limiting any student from the opportunity to attend an alternative school.

When an alternative class group is established within a school, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that students currently enrolled in the school will not be displaced.

A parent/guardian may request that a student's enrollment in an alternative school be rescinded at any time. Such requests shall be effective at the end of the school year in which they are received unless an earlier date is agreed upon by the principals of the schools involved or by the principal and teachers of the class groups involved.

Operations

The district shall maintain and fund alternative schools at the same level of support as other district educational programs for students of the same age level.

Teachers employed in alternative schools shall be selected entirely from volunteers.

Students who have satisfactorily completed the prescribed course of study in a district alternative school and have passed the state high school exit examination shall be awarded a diploma.

Students enrolled in alternative schools may be eligible for district transportation in the same manner as students attending other district schools.

Program Evaluation

The Superintendent or designee shall conduct an annual evaluation of alternative schools 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. Evaluation reports shall be sent for review, by August 1, to the Superintendent of Public Instruction.