

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

Background

The Division believes that public education is responsive to the needs of students and parents, in order to instill the necessary knowledge, skills and core values for students to be caring, productive members of our democratic society. Therefore the Board is committed to providing a variety of programs in order to meet the specific needs and interests of parents and to provide opportunity for parental choice in the programs that students attend.

Definition

An “alternative program” is defined as an education program that emphasizes a particular language, culture, religion, or subject matter, or uses a particular teaching philosophy.

Procedures

1. Upon receiving a proposal for an alternative program from an organization of parents the Board may direct the office of the Superintendent to collect more information and prepare a presentation on the feasibility of the program.
2. The alternative program presentation must include, but is not limited to, the following elements:
 - 2.1 Background research;
 - 2.2 Philosophy, objectives and mission statement;
 - 2.3 Distinguishing feature(s) of the alternative program;
 - 2.4 Operational budget;
 - 2.5 Staffing requirements and staff profiles to meet the alternative program objectives including: teaching and administrative FTE and administrative support time;
 - 2.6 Evaluation of the alternative program methodology and objectives;
 - 2.7 Projected student population and geographical location and ages/grades of students;
 - 2.8 Transportation of students to and from the alternative program;
 - 2.9 Curriculum and instructional materials in addition to the Alberta Education curriculum; and
 - 2.10 Potential facilities and facility requirements;
3. The office of the Superintendent will monitor the development and on-going implementation of the alternative program and provide recommendations for continued support to the Board based on the following criteria:
 - 3.1 All Division policies and procedures apply unless specifically exempted by the Board;
 - 3.2 The alternative program approach to education is pedagogically sound and the numbers of students are sufficient to warrant the program;
 - 3.3 The program is aligned to the Program of Studies for the Province of Alberta;
 - 3.4 The program is financially and logistically viable;
 - 3.5 Staff are employed, evaluated and responsible to the Division according to Division policy and procedures.

4. The formal decision as to alternative program status will be made at a public Board meeting.
5. Closure of an alternative program is not subject to the procedures in Policy 16 "School/Program Closure".

Reference: Section 19 Education Act
Alternative Programs Handbook
Policy 16, Policy 18

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