

Eugene School District 4J

Code: **IGBH**
Adopted: 7/2/73
Revised: 10/16/85; 8/17/05,
9/17/08

Orig. Code(s): 7225

Alternative Schools

The Board of Directors recognizes that the educational goals of School District 4J can best be attained through educational programs as diverse as students' needs within a pluralistic society. Therefore, the board endorses the development of a variety of alternative schools and programs through the cooperative efforts of educators, parents, students, and/or community resources.

An alternative school is defined as any complete educational program that represents a distinctive strategy within the district for achieving the educational goals defined in the school board's philosophy statement and in the program goals and objectives of the district's required curriculum. The term "complete educational program" is used herein to mean a school that has an organizational structure, a teaching staff, a budget, and a specific curriculum, each of which is separate from other schools. An alternative school may share the facilities, administrative personnel, and the support services of another alternative school, or may be an autonomous unit.

An alternative school may differ from other schools in ways that include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. The school may emphasize a specific element of the district's approved curriculum;
2. The school may present the district's approved curriculum in a sequence different from the order of presentation in other schools;
3. The decision-making process for governance of the school may differ from the processes used in other schools;
4. Students may be grouped for instruction in some unique manner;
5. The teachers in the school may emphasize a specific instructional strategy.

An alternative program is defined as a block of classes that provides a distinctive curriculum focus within a school. Students attending an alternative program also take some classes with other students in the neighborhood school.

The Board of Directors will determine whether to approve a proposed alternative school or program after considering the superintendent's recommendation. The following criteria will be used to evaluate a proposal to establish an alternative school:

1. The school must be an alternative school or program as defined in this policy;
2. There must be evidence of sufficient interest among staff, parents, and students to warrant establishment of the school or program;

3. The planned curriculum must conform to the district's educational goals and objectives and the required district curriculum;
4. The operational plan, including staffing, proposed location of the school and facility requirements, support services needed, and the proposed timeline for establishing the school or program, must conform to applicable district policies and constitute an efficient use of district resources;
5. There must be evidence that establishment of the proposed school or program enhances the district's educational program;
6. The proposed budget for the school or program must be appropriate to the program that is proposed and must represent an efficient use of district funds. Budget requests may include start-up costs to be paid by District 4J or to be solicited from other sources. "Start-up costs" are herein defined as those expenditures necessary to begin a new school or program, but which will not continue after the school or program becomes fully operational. Start-up costs may include, but are not necessarily limited to, such items as purchase and/or renovation of facilities, purchase of an initial inventory of equipment and supplies, and payroll and travel expenses for program planning and in-service of staff. Other than start-up costs approved for payment out of district funds, the district-supported budget for an alternative school or program shall not exceed the district per-pupil cost of educating students unless an express waiver is approved by the Board of Directors;
7. The proposed criteria for selecting students for enrollment in the alternative school or program must not unfairly discriminate among applicants and must be reasonably related to the educational goals of the school or program and the district.

Applicants will be evaluated for acceptance according to the student selection criteria approved by the board as part of the proposal for establishment of the alternative school or program, as stated in Board policy JECC School Choice. Staff members may utilize appropriate district funds to produce and distribute written information about an alternative school/program but shall not otherwise recruit students to apply for enrollment in an alternative school.

Alternative Schools Review

Purpose

In order to ensure that alternative schools/programs continue to meet the Board and district goals, and perform consistent with Board policy and expectations, alternative schools or programs will be reviewed on a regular basis as determined by the Board of Directors.

Review Process

The superintendent will develop the process for alternative school review and determine the criteria to be used. Review criteria will be approved by the Board. No single criterion will be used to determine action as a result of the review process. Alternative School Review Outcomes

A decision for alternative school or program modification will be made by the Board of Directors. Potential outcomes of the alternative school review will include, but are not necessarily limited to:

1. No Change In Status;
2. Plan For Improvement;
3. Program Modification;
4. Merger With Neighborhood School Or Other Alternative School;
5. Relocation;
6. Closure.

END OF POLICY

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](#)