

## **Alternative Educational Programs**

The Board is dedicated to keeping all students enrolled in the regular educational program. It is recognized, however, that there will be students in the district who may benefit educationally in an alternative program.

A list of Board-approved alternative programs will be adopted. Annual evaluation of alternative programs and student performance will be made.

Alternative education programs will be alternative programs of instruction or alternative programs of instruction combined with counseling. These programs may be public or private. Public and private alternative education programs shall be registered with the Oregon Department of Education. Alternative programs must meet all the requirements set forth in ORS 336.625, 336.631 and 336.637. Home schooling by the parent is not an alternative placement. The parent, is responsible for enrolling the student. If the student is 18 years of age, the student is responsible.

Students, upon parent request, may be placed in an alternative education program if the district determines that the placement serves the student's educational needs and interests and assists the student in achieving district and state academic content standards. Such placement must have the approval of the student's resident district and, as appropriate, the attending district. The district will also consider and propose alternative education programs for students prior to expulsion or leaving school as required by law.

The district shall pay the actual cost of the alternative education program or an amount that is at least equivalent to 80 percent of the district's estimated current year's average per pupil net operating expenditure, whichever is lesser. The district is not obligated to provide, or pay for, transportation. The district will enter into a written contract with district-approved private alternative programs.

If a student sixteen years or older voluntarily withdraws from the school, the district must provide the same documentation of alternative education programs; however, the district has no obligation to pay for such programs.

If a student is not successful in the alternative program, there is no obligation to propose, or fund, a second alternative.

### **In-District Alternative Educational Programs**

The superintendent will develop in-district alternative education programs in compliance with Oregon Administrative Rules and Oregon Revised Statutes:

1. For students who are unable to succeed in the regular programs because of erratic attendance or behavioral programs;

2. For students who have not met or who have exceeded all of Oregon’s academic content standards;
3. When necessary to meet a student’s educational needs and interests;
4. To assist students in achieving district and state academic content standards;
5. When a public or private alternative education program is not readily available or accessible.

Alternative education programs implemented by the district are to “maintain learning situations that are flexible with regard to environment, time, structure and pedagogy”.

Examples of district programs would include:

1. A separate school;
2. Evening classes; (The district may require a student to attend school during nonschool hours as an alternative to suspension.)
3. Tutorial instruction;
4. Small group instruction;
5. Large group instruction;
6. Personal growth and development instruction;
7. Counseling and guidance;
8. Computer-assisted instruction;
9. Professional technical training;
10. Cooperative work experience and/or supervised work experience;
11. Instructional activities provided by institutions accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges;
12. Supervised community service activities performed as part of the instructional program; and
13. Supervised independent study in accordance with a student’s educational goals.

The superintendent will develop a procedure for establishing alternative programs.

## Alternative Education Notification

General notification of the alternative education law, the availability of existing programs and the procedures to request the establishment of new alternative education programs shall be contained in the student/parent handbook distributed each year.

Individual notification to students and parents regarding the availability of alternative programs will be given semiannually, or when new programs become available, under the following situations, as appropriate:

1. When two or more severe disciplinary problems occur within a three-year period; (Severe disciplinary problems are defined in the Code of Conduct.)
2. When attendance is so erratic the student is not benefitting from the educational program; (Erratic attendance will be determined on a case-by-case basis.)
3. When an expulsion is being considered;
4. When a student is expelled;
5. When a student or the student's parent applies for "exemption" from attendance on a semiannual basis.

Individual notification shall be **hand-delivered** or sent by certified mail. Parents shall receive individual notification prior to an actual expulsion.

Notification shall include:

1. The student's action;
2. A list of alternative education programs for this student;
3. The program recommendations based upon the student's learning styles and needs;
4. Procedures for enrolling the student in the recommended program.

The superintendent will develop notification procedures in accordance with Oregon Revised Statutes.

END OF POLICY

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### 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](#)

**Cross Reference(s):**

JGEA - Alternative Education Programs Following Expulsion