
ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL PROGRAM

The school board of this district shall establish, maintain and operate, in connection with the regular programs of said school district, an alternative school program. The alternative school program shall be operated as part of and in accordance with the regulations applicable to the regular school program and with all requirements of federal and state law (MS Code of 1972 Section 37-13-91, et al) and the guidelines of the State Department of Education

1. The alternative school program shall serve compulsory-school-age children:
 - a. Who have been suspended for more than ten (10) days or expelled from school, except that such placement may be denied when the expulsion was for possession of a weapon or other felonious conduct;
 - b. Who are referred for placement based upon a documented need by the parent, legal guardian or custodian because of disciplinary problems;
 - c. Who are referred by order of a chancellor or youth court judge, but only with the consent of the principal; and
 - d. Whose presence in the classroom, in the determination of the school superintendent or principal, is a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the students and teacher of such class as a whole.

Students who are arrested for violent crimes or drug offenses may be reassigned to the alternative program until the disposition of their criminal cases.

2. Before placement in the alternative school program, the principal or program administrator of the alternative school program shall obtain verification of the child's suitability for the program from the appropriate guidance counselor. Before a student can be removed to an alternative school education program, the superintendent shall determine that the written and distributed disciplinary policy of this district is being followed and that the policy includes standards for:
 - a. The removal of a student to an alternative education program that will include a process of educational review to develop the student's individual instruction plan and the evaluation at regular intervals of the student's educational progress; the process shall include classroom teachers and/or other appropriate professional personnel, as defined by district policy, to ensure a continuing program for the removed student;
 - b. The duration of the alternative placement; and

- c. The notification of parents or guardians, and their appropriate inclusion in the removal and evaluation process, as defined in the district policy.
3. The superintendent shall provide for the continuing education of a student who has been removed to an alternative school program. Students placed in the alternative school program are subject to the policies and rules of conduct and discipline as well as any other rules of conduct and discipline deemed appropriate by the superintendent and/or principal.
4. This district shall ensure the following components are included in the alternative school program:
 - a. Clear guidelines and procedures for placement of students into alternative education programs which at a minimum shall prescribe due process procedures for disciplinary and general educational development (GED) placement;
 - b. Clear and consistent goals for students and parents;
 - c. Curricula addressing cultural and learning style differences;
 - d. Direct supervision of all activities on a closed campus;
 - e. Attendance requirements that allow for education and workforce development opportunities
 - f. Selection of program from options provided by the local school district, Division of Youth Services or the youth court, including transfer to a community-based alternative school;
 - g. Continual monitoring and evaluation and formalized passage from one step or program to another;
 - h. A motivated and culturally diverse staff;
 - i. Counseling for parents and students;
 - j. Administrative and community support for the program; and
 - k. Clear procedures for annual alternative school program review and evaluation.
5. Any student who becomes involved in any criminal or violent behavior shall be removed from the alternative school program and, if probable cause exists, a case shall be referred to the youth court. The removal of a student from the alternative school program on these grounds shall be reported in accordance with the applicable school board policies.
6. This school district shall submit a report by July 31 of each calendar year to the State Department of Education describing the results of its annual alternative school program

review and evaluation undertaken pursuant to MS Code of 1972 Section 37-13-92. The report shall include a detailed account of any actions taken by the school district during the previous year to comply with substantive guidelines promulgated by the State Board of Education under MS Code of 1972 Section 37-13-92.

SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

Educational services for children with disabilities who have been suspended or expelled from school shall be provided based on the requirements of IDEA, applicable federal regulations and state regulations.

STUDENT CONDUCT AND GRADES

Criteria used in the evaluation process to determine a student's grade must be supported by rationale. The criteria must be in writing and must include the following:

1. Course content (goals, objectives, materials, etc.) as outlined in the curriculum guide
2. Methods of evaluation of grades will reflect some combination of the areas listed below:
 - a. Class work
 - b. Homework
 - c. Test scores
 - d. Participation
 - e. Skill application
 - f. Preparation for class
3. The effect of absence on grades
4. Procedures for making up assigned work and tests
5. Other criteria as may be approved by the superintendent and school board

This school district, in its discretion, may provide a program of general educational development (GED) preparatory instruction in the alternative program.

The Mississippi Public School Accountability Standard for this policy is standard 22.

SOURCE: Mississippi School Board Association

DATE: December 6, 2016