

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM REGULATION

The alternative education program of Ringwood School District will be a school day program for sixth through twelfth grades. It will meet from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. A single teacher will be designated as lead teacher. This teacher will have duties of maintaining necessary records, overseeing, discipline and coordinating student programs as well as teaching duties. At this time no further teachers are required.

The students will attend class as assigned. During this time the students will complete assignments that will allow each student to return to the regular school program successfully. Each of the students in the alternative program will complete with a counselor a program of studies, which will allow the student to graduate.

Targeted Population

The targeted population for the alternative school is students who have one or more of the following characteristics.

1. Grades that consistently indicate continuous underachievement
2. Students who have been retained for one or more years
3. Students who have been a school dropout or have had excessive absences during the school year
4. Students whose behavior has negative impact on their own or others' learning
5. Students who have been determined to be high risk for school failure by school staff familiar with the student's health, social, or family status, as these influences may be impairing the student's success in school. Influences may include, but are not limited to, evidence of physical abuse, delinquent behavior, attempted suicide, or drug or alcohol abuse.

Alternative Education Goals

1. 90% of the middle school students and high school students will successfully transition back into the school community.
2. All students will participate in counseling and social skill development designed to promote reentry into a standard middle school or high school program. The purpose of this objective will be considered met if 90% of the participants are able to return to a standard school with no major (suspendable) and no more than one minor (defined as not requiring a suspension) behavioral referral in a nine-week period. Behavioral records will be used to measure the success of this objective.
3. All students will complete curricular units at a minimum of 70% accuracy rate. Student grades will be used to measure the success of this objective.
4. All students, upon returning to a standard middle school or high school program will participate in a counseling/mentoring program which will emphasize maintaining a high level of achievement. This objective will be considered met if 90% of the students maintain a C or greater grade average. Student grades will be used to determine the success of this objective.

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5. All students upon returning to the standard middle school or high school will participate in a counseling/mentoring program designed to promote a successful social/behavioral reentry into the standard high school or middle school program. 90% of the students participating in this program will be active in one extracurricular activity and maintain a behavior record with no suspendable offenses and no more than one non suspendable offense in a nine weeks period.

Teachers who are chosen for this program will be those who have a record of successful work with students at risk for school failure. Only those with references indicating success with students at risk for school failure will be chosen.

Intake and Screening Process

Students will be referred to the alternative program by the middle school or high school principal. Documentation of the student's attendance, behavior, grades, and relevant socio-cultural information will be assembled. Each student and his parents will participate in an interview with an "intake" committee. The committee will determine whether the student should be permitted to attend the alternative program.

Following acceptance into the program the student will meet with the school counselor and develop a written plan leading to graduation. The student will also meet the alternative school lead teacher to complete a behavior and work expectation contract before beginning the alternative school program.

The Alternative School Committee

The committee will consist of the high school or middle school principal, one of the student's teachers, the middle school or high school counselor and an alternative school teacher.

The Alternative School Program

1. The students will receive individualized instruction.
2. Student to teacher ratio will be a 10 to 1 for middle school and 15 to 1 for high school students.
3. Students will complete individual curriculum units, which they would have completed if they had continued in the general education setting.
4. The units will not be self-paced.
5. The students will be required to complete all work within a specified time.
6. Group counseling will occur during class time.
7. Counseling will be scheduled every two weeks.
8. Individual counseling will be provided, but scheduled before class time.

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9. A school counselor, psychologist or community counselor will provide counseling. The counselors need not have school counselor certification, however, they must be qualified counselors, either licensed by the state or as a community counselor or certified as a school counselor.
10. All students in the Alternative School Program must participate in group counseling. Individual counseling is an option.
11. If students need social services, counselors will assist the students in obtaining these services.
12. Life skills will be taught as a part of the counseling program. This will be taught two times each month. The skill, which will be concentrated on, is working with others. Students will learn how to question, say "no", and get others to listen to their concerns without conflict. No credit will be given for this program.
13. Arts education will be a part of the curriculum for students who are enrolled in those subjects within the regular school.
14. The building principal has the right to modify a child's alternative education program if a student's needs can better be met with the modification.