

Descriptor Term: CRITERIA FOR ASSIGNING STUDENTS TO THE ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL

Descriptor Code: IDDBB

Rescinds: IDDBB

Board Approved: 6/1/2020

Previously Approved: 3/17/2014

The Alternative School of the Gulfport School District (The Learning Center) will provide educational opportunities, actual and virtual, for the diploma-bound student, as well as the student with disabilities who is placed at the Alternative School through his/her IEP. The goal of the Alternative School will be to assist the student to achieve successful learning experiences and modify social behavior that will entitle him/her to return to and re-enter his/her home school in order to graduate.

Students considered eligible for the alternative school program will include, but not be limited to, the following categories of compulsory-school-age students (MS Code 1972, 37-13-92):

1. Any compulsory-school-age child who has been expelled from school, except for any student expelled for possession of a weapon or other felonious conduct;
2. Any compulsory-school-age child referred to such alternative school based upon a documented need for placement in the alternative school program by the principal, superintendent, and the parent, legal guardian or custodian of such child due to disciplinary problems;
3. Any compulsory-school-age child referred to such alternative school program by the dispositive order of a chancellor or youth court judge, with the consent of the Superintendent of the District;
4. Students with disabilities who have had a complete Manifestation Determination Review and are determined through all appropriate interventions and assessments to be eligible for placement at the Alternative School.

AGE CRITERION:

Students in grades six (6) – twelve (12) must be a minimum of twelve (12) years of age and a maximum of eighteen (18) years of age in order to be eligible for assignment in the Alternative School. Elementary students in grades four (4) – five (5) are served through the elementary Alternative School.

RATIONALE:

The Board of Trustees has the legal prerogative and responsibility to identify the students who are to be assigned to the Alternative School.