

## ALTERNATIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCE COURSES

### Definitions

1. **Alternative learning experience (ALE)** means a course or, for grades kindergarten through twelve, grade-level course work, that is a delivery method of basic education and is:
  - Provided in whole or in part independently from a regular classroom setting or schedule, but may include components of direct instruction;
  - Supervised, monitored, assessed, evaluated, and documented by a certificated teacher employed or contracted by the school district.
  - Provided in accordance with a written student-learning plan that is implemented pursuant to the district's policy and Chapter 392-550, WAC.
2. **Online courses** are courses or grade-level coursework where:
  - More than half of the course content is delivered electronically using the internet or other computer-based methods;
  - More than half of the teaching is conducted from a remote location through an online course learning management system or other online or electronic tools;
  - A certificated teacher has the primary responsibility for the student's instructional interaction. Instructional interaction between the teacher and the student includes, but is not limited to, direct instruction, review of assignments, assessment, testing, progress monitoring, and educational facilitation; and
  - Students have access to the teacher synchronously, asynchronously, or both.
3. **Remote course** means an alternative learning experience course or course work that is not an online course where the written student-learning plan for the course does not include a requirement for in-person instructional contact time.
4. **Site-based course** means an alternative learning experience course or course work that is not an online course where the written student-learning plan for the course includes a requirement for in-person instructional contact time.

### Student Eligibility and Enrollment

1. ALE courses will be available to all students, including students with disabilities.
2. All students in grades K-12 are eligible to participate in ALE programs.
3. Students enrolling in an ALE must have a Written Student Learning Plan (WSLP) as defined in WAC 392-550.
4. Families must be notified of difference between ALE and home-based instruction prior to enrollment.
5. Students who wish to enroll in an ALE program must satisfy the following additional enrollment procedures:
  - Students who wish to enroll at Explorer Academy or Discovery Alternative High School must complete and turn in the appropriate application for either program.
  - Upon receipt of a student's application, they will be offered and interview to enter the program with the following priorities:
    - Available space at students requested site or grade level;
    - Teen parent;
    - Graduation year/grade level beginning with Super Seniors, then seniors, juniors, Sophomores etc.;
    - Age, priority given to students close to age 21;
    - Number of credits needed to graduate;

- Ability level, Discovery students' ability in reading, writing, and math must be a minimum of 5<sup>th</sup> grade level.

### **Student Performance**

1. Students participating in ALE will be evaluated monthly by a certificated instructional staff, or, for students whose written student learning plans include only online classes, school based support staff, to track student progress toward completion and to establish whether an intervention plan should be developed, in accordance with WAC 392-550.
2. The methods for determining satisfactory progress shall be outlined in the written student learning plan and may include:
  - Progress grades;
  - Assignment completion rates;
  - Non-academic factors such as attendance, attitude, and behavior; and
  - Local school expectations.
3. The following is criteria Discovery Alternative High School will use to determine monthly satisfactory progress towards an individual's Written Student Learning Plan.
  - The student must exhibit the following:
    - Weekly contact with student: face-to-face, phone, email, instant messaging, and interactive video communication.
    - Weekly contact needs to be with student directly, not parent. It must be a reciprocal contact. Phone texts are OK, however teachers are to record date and information provided from the text.
    - Students must be on track to earn credit in 60% of classes as determined by Advisor/Credit teacher who will review monthly progress using the form, Monthly Student Self Progress Review. Student and advisor /credit teacher signature is necessary for monthly review.
4. The following is criteria Explorer Academy will use to determine monthly Satisfactory Progress towards an individual's Written Student Learning Plan.
  - A student making satisfactory progress will be on track to complete a minimum of 10% of annual course work during that month as defined by their Written Student Learning Plan at the time of the monthly review.
  - A student making satisfactory monthly progress will have weekly contact with a teacher. All other communication may be face to face, by email, by phone or other digital media. Reciprocal contact must be directly with the student as defined by state law.

### **Student Responsibilities**

1. Students enrolled in an ALE program must meet the contact requirements defined in WAC 392-550.
2. Student responsibilities:
  - Attend required scheduled orientation meeting;
  - Devote 1 to 1.5 study hours per day for each course assigned;
  - Consistently attend assigned on-campus classes;
  - Attend regularly scheduled conferences with advisor/consulting teacher with parent/guardian when necessary; and
  - Maintain up to date records and required paperwork for each course assigned on WSLP.

### **Parent Responsibilities**

1. Upon receipt of the district's description of the difference between home-based instruction and ALE, the parent must sign documentation attesting that he/she understands the difference;
2. The parent or guardian must provide or implement those portions of their child's plan for alternative learning experiences that are identified in the plan under the supervision of certificated instructional staff;
3. The parent or guardian must meet with certificated instructional staff as prescribed in their child's plan for purposes of evaluating their child's performance and/or receiving instructions on assisting with their child's alternative learning experience;
4. Parent responsibilities:
  - Meet with students daily to discuss courses and assignments within those courses;
  - Conference with consulting teacher/advisor at scheduled on-campus meetings;
  - Contact advisor/consulting teacher regarding any schedule changes or missed meetings;
  - Maintain up to date records and required paperwork for each course assigned on WSLP; and
  - Respond to any phone or e-mail messages promptly.

### **District Verification of Student Work**

1. The district will use reliable methods to verify a student is doing his or her own work. These include, but are not limited to:
  - Proctored examinations;
  - Proctored projects;
  - In-person presentations; or
  - Real-time presentations using videoconference technology.

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