

Bartlett City Board of Education		6031
Descriptor Term: ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL PROGRAMS	Descriptor Code: Student Services	Issue Date: 06/23/2014
	Rescinds:	Revised: 01/22/2015 08/27/2015 09/23/2021

The Board shall operate an alternative school program for students in grades one (1) through twelve (1-12) who have been suspended for more than ten (10) days or expelled from regular school programs.¹

Assignment to alternative school programs shall be contingent upon space availability, and if a student is assigned, his/her attendance in the alternative school program shall be mandatory. Notwithstanding the foregoing, attendance is not mandatory for students who have been expelled from the regular school program for committing a zero-tolerance offense. The Superintendent shall determine whether to assign a student who has been expelled from the regular school program for committing a zero-tolerance offense to an alternative school or program on a case-by-case basis.

The Superintendent or his/her designee is not required to assign a student who has been suspended for more than ten (10) days or expelled to the alternative school, if the offense for which a student was suspended or expelled was an act of violence or threatened the safety of persons attending or assigned to the student's school and if the alternative school is located on the same grounds as the regular school program,

Students attending the alternative school program shall provide their own transportation.

The Superintendent is authorized to develop appropriate procedures to implement this policy and to ensure compliance with relevant state laws and regulations.

Program Requirements

Alternative school programs shall be operated in accordance with state laws and the rules of the State Board of Education.²

- A. Instruction shall proceed as nearly as practicable in accordance with the instructional program at the student's home school.
- B. All course work and credits earned shall be transferred and recorded in the student's home school, which shall grant credit as if the work were performed in the home school.
- C. Students shall participate in all required state assessments in accordance with established guidelines regarding student grade levels and eligibility.

¹ T.C.A. §49-6-3402(a)

² TRR/MS 0520-1-2-.09

- D. Each alternative school or program shall comply with class size requirements established in T.C.A. §49-1-104 and instructional and planning time requirements established by the State Board of Education.
- E. The minimum length of the school day for alternative schools and programs shall be six and one-half (6 ½) hours.
- F. Each student's academic progress shall be monitored and regularly evaluated
- G. Students attending the alternative school or program are subject to all rules pertaining to their home school and alternative school. Violation of rules may result in the removal of students from the alternative program, but a student's removal from the alternative school or program shall not constitute grounds for extending the length of the original suspension or expulsion.
- H. If a student has an active Individualized Education Program (IEP), a 504 plan, or is suspected of having a disability, all state and federal laws, rules, and regulations relating to students with disabilities shall be followed. Prior to the assignment of a student with a disability to the alternative school, the IEP team shall meet to review the student's placement, and due process procedures shall be observed.
- I. Prior to the assignment of a student to an alternative school or program, written notice, including the reasons for assignment, shall be provided to the student's parent or guardian. Reasons for placement in the alternative school or program must be documented.
- J. Each teacher providing instruction in the alternative school or program shall be licensed to teach in Tennessee and shall meet all state qualifications in compliance with the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education.
- K. An appropriately licensed administrator shall be assigned to supervise the alternative school or program.
- L. Support services such as counseling and psychological services must be accessible for students attending the alternate school.
- M. Student transition plans shall be used for students transitioning into and out of the alternative school or program. Plans shall be targeted to improve communication between the home school and alternative school staff and should address barriers that would prohibit students from successfully transitioning. Transition plans shall include aligning curricula, return to home school procedures, educational and behavioral supports, student follow-up, graduation and post-secondary goals, and professional development opportunities for staff.
- N. All alternative school classrooms shall have working two-way communication systems that make it possible for teachers and other employees to notify a principal, supervisor, or other administrator that there is an emergency.
- O. Alternative school staff shall be trained in two-way communication systems and shall be notified of BCS emergency procedures prior to the beginning of classes for each school year and upon modification of such procedures.