

Adopted: February 18, 1997

District 77 Policy 605

*Revised: January 5, 2004
March 7, 2005
October 18, 2010
April 4, 2016
July 21, 2025*

Last Reviewed: May 21, 2025

605 ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to recognize the need for alternative education programs for some school district students.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The school board recognizes the importance of alternative program options for some students. Circumstances may be such that some students face challenges that put them at risk of being able to continue or to complete their education programs. It is the policy of the school board that options shall be made available for some students to select educational alternatives that will enhance their opportunity to complete their education programs, recognizing that some students may become successful learners if given an opportunity to learn in a different environment and through a different learning style.

III. DEFINITIONS

Following are the state-approved alternative programs definitions:

Area Learning Centers (ALC): An area learning center provides comprehensive educational services to enrolled secondary students throughout the year. This could include a daytime school within a school or separate site for both high school and middle school level students. Students must meet Graduation Incentives Program eligibility criteria as defined in Minnesota Statute, section 124D.68, subd. 2. Students served are off-track for graduation and are working towards completing their graduation requirements. In addition to day programs, these centers provide extended learning opportunities for students to make up lost credits or to prepare for graduation tests. ALCs serve students from more than one district. ALCs must also provide services to middle level students, either at a separate site or within their school. ALCs can apply to provide Targeted Services to elementary age students in after school and summer programs.

IV. RESPONSIBILITY

- A. It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to identify alternative program opportunities to be made available to students who may be eligible under Graduation Incentives Program criteria, to recommend such alternative programs to the school board for approval, and to familiarize students and parents with the availability of such alternative programs. The superintendent shall, through cooperative efforts with other schools, agencies and organizations, periodically recommend additional or modified alternative educational programs to the school board.
- B. The superintendent shall have discretionary authority to develop guidelines and directives to implement school board policy relating to alternative programs.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120A.22, Subd. 8 (Compulsory Instruction)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.41, Subd. 11 (Definitions - Alternative Educational Services)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.45, Subd. 1 (Grounds for Dismissal)
Minn. Stat. § 123A.06 (State-Approved Alternative Programs and Services)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.66 (Assurance of Mastery Programs)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.68 (Graduation Incentives Programs)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.74 (American Indian Language and Cultural Educational Programs)
Minn. Stat. § 125A.50 (Alternative Delivery of Specialized Instructional Services)

Cross References: District 77 Policy 603 (Curriculum Development)
District 77 Policy 604 (Instructional Curriculum)